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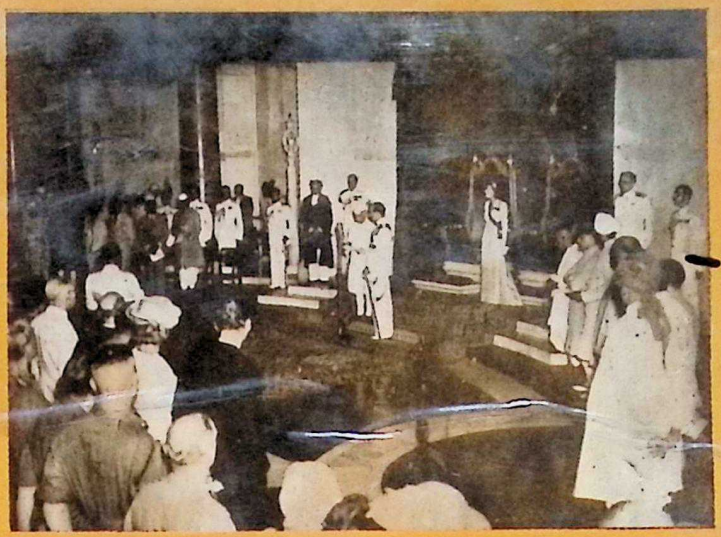
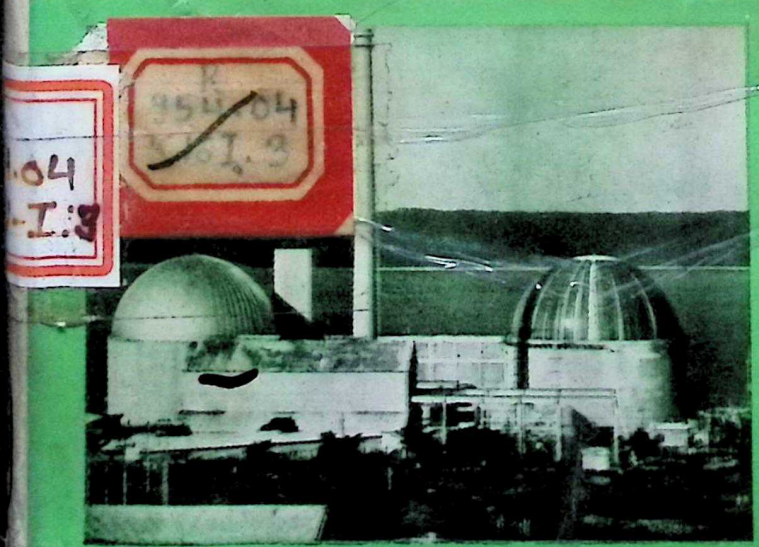


# India Since Independence

## *Chronology of Events*

1978

VIMLA KAUL



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# India Since Independenc

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Thirty two years ago on 15 August 1947 the tricolour banner of independent India was hoisted over the ramparts of the ancient Red Fort in Delhi. That day marked the beginning of the country's journey to rediscover itself. The history of free India is crowded with events and achievements in every walk of life. Planners, executives, statesmen, research workers, students, teachers, journalists and many others look round for the correct date of an important - sometimes not - so - important - event which is just not available easily.

India Since Independence is published with the object of providing handy reference to the chronology of events in the country. Two Volumes of the compilation, the first covering the events from August 15, 1947 to December 31, 1966 and the second covering the decade 1967-77, have already been published. We are simply overwhelmed by the warm response with which the two volumes have been received. This has inspired us to complete the enormous task of compiling the Third Volume, covering the events of 1978, ahead of schedule. This volume, therefore, is being published sooner than the promised date. We hope the third volume would be found as comprehensive and useful as the earlier two.

This unique three volume publication is independent India's history in dates. A most dependable, invaluable and indispensable companion to editors, planners, executives, statesmen, research workers, students, teachers, journalists and many others who look round for the correct date of an important - sometimes not - so - important - event which is just not available easily.

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गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय, हरिद्वार

वर्ग संख्या. 954.04 K16I13 आगत संख्या. 75480

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# INDIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

**Volume 3 : 1978**

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# INDIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

**Volume 3: 1978**

**Mrs. VIMLA KAUL**
**Daulat Ram College,**
**University of Delhi, Delhi**

**SAGAR PUBLICATIONS**
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*First Edition* : July 1979

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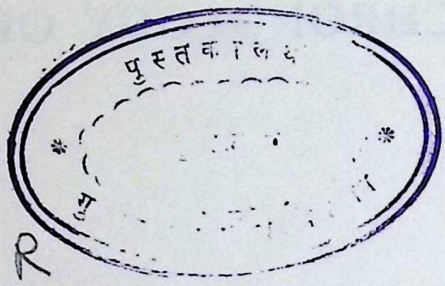

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## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

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# *PREFACE*

*India Since Independence* is published with the object of providing handy reference to the chronology of events in the country. Two volumes of the compilation, the first covering the events from August 15, 1947 to December 31, 1966 and the second covering the decade 1967-77, have already been published. I am simply overwhelmed by the warm response with which the two volumes have been received. This has inspired me to complete the enormous task of compiling the Third Volume, covering the events of 1978, ahead of schedule. This volume, therefore, is being published sooner than the promised date. I hope the third volume would be found as comprehensive and useful as the earlier two.

New Delhi
July 11, 1979

(Mrs) Vimla Kaul

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# 1978

**January 1** An Air-India Boeing 747 Jumbo 'Emperor Ashoka' bound for Dubai with 90 passengers and 23 crew members aboard, exploded in the air and plunged into the sea of Bombay coast shortly after take-off from Santa Cruz airport. The plane was the first Boeing acquired by Air-India, in 1971.

— Governor Govind Narain took over the charge of the Karnataka state administration after the dismissal of Devaraj Urs Ministry.

— Karnataka's Prakash Padukone won the men's singles title of the National Badminton Championships for the seventh year in succession. The match was played in Panaji. Prakash whipped Punjab's Devinder Ahuja at 15-0, 15-6.

— President Jimmy Carter of United States, along with his wife Mrs. Rosalyn Carter, arrived in New Delhi on a 3-day visit. He was accorded a warm and colourful welcome at the airport. In the evening a civic reception was given to him in Ramlila Ground. Speaking at the reception, President Carter said that he wanted the other people of the world to benefit from our consultations, our friendship, our standard of moral value and our hopes for world peace. On 2nd January, President Carter addressed the Members of Parliament. Addressing the members he announced that the U S administration would make available to India heavy water supplies from its stocks to help this country tide over the crisis created by the accident in the heavy water plant at Baroda Besides this he also announced authorisation of the shipment of 7.5 tonnes of enriched Uranium to Tarapur plant against the application from the Government of India which was pending with the U S administration. President and Mrs. Carter left New Delhi on 3rd January.

**2** An accord on release of Krishna waters for meeting the drinking water requirements of Madras city had been reached among Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. This was disclosed in the Madras State Assembly.

— Dr. Shriman Narayan, a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and a former Governor of Gujarat, died at Gwalior. He was 65.

— The Indian National Congress, which celebrated its 92nd birthday recently, split for the second time in eight years, when the faction led by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, at a convention held in New Delhi (the convention started on 1st January), declared itself the real Congress. As expected Mrs. Gandhi was chosen the President of the new party and autho-

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rised to recognise the new party at all levels, in consultation with the seven members of the Congress Working Committee. On 3rd January, the Congress Working Committee expelled Mrs. Indira Gandhi and her colleagues from the party for committing an "illegal, immoral and unconstitutional" act of floating a separate party in violation of party discipline. At an emergency meeting, where the revolt by Mrs. Gandhi's supporters was discussed, the working committee resolved to expel all those Congressmen who have joined the new party formed by Mrs. Gandhi. On 4th January Mrs. Gandhi's Congress expelled K. Brahmananda Reddy and Y.B. Chavan from the membership of Indian National Congress and claimed the election symbol of Cow and Calf.

**January 2** M. Ramakrishnayya, IAS, former Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa and until recently Secretary in the Union Ministry for Transport and Shipping, assumed charge as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India,

— Shankar Sharma Pipasi (60), a well-known Hindi poet, died in Jammu. He had more than 200 poems and two published collections to his credit.

3 25-nation U N Council for Nambia elected Rikhi Jaipal, Indian Ambassador, as Vice President for 1978.

— Filmotsav 78, the third in the series of non-competitive international film festivals in India, opened in Madras. The 15-day festival was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, L.K. Advani. The festival concluded on 17th January with a valedicatory address by the Vice-President, B.D. Jatti. Forty-three countries participated in the festival.

— India and Pakistan exchanged detenus who were held during the 1971 conflict. India repatriated 171 and Pakistan 50.

— N. Chouba Singh, a Janata M L A from Manipur, was found murdered in Delhi.

— Nirpen Chakravorty (CPI-M) was elected leader of the left front legislative party in Tripura. On 4th January, 14-member Council of the Ministry headed by Mr. Chakravorty was sworn-in.

4 Britain gave India five grants totalling £144 million constituting the biggest single aid package it had ever bestowed on India. The grants comprised £70 million as maintenance aid, £30 million for major projects, £20 million each for capital goods imports and the power and coal sectors and £4 million for debt refinancing.

— India beat Australia by 222 runs on the final day of the third

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cricket test played in Melbourne. This was India's first-ever test victory in Australia. The first two tests in current series were won by Australia.

**January 4** Presidents of Pradesh Congress Committees in several States expelled Congress men who attended the New Delhi Convention organised by Mrs. Indira Gandhi on 1st and 2nd January. The step followed a directive from the AICC office to all PCCs to expel the conventionists.

5 The Central Cabinet decided to re-organize the public sector fertilizer industry into five separate companies.

— The Government set up four regional committees to review the progress in implementation of the Urban Ceiling Act.

Three persons were killed and 14 received serious injuries when a Punjab State bus was hit by a passenger train at Bidhipur level crossing, 2 km from Dhariwal.

6 British Prime Minister James Callaghan accompanied by his wife arrived in New Delhi on a 6-day visit to India. In his first round of official talk with Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, James Callahan offered India £10 million worth of fertilisers annually for three years to be marketed in 10 villages in 10 states. The sale proceeds of these fertilisers would be used for rural development programmes in these States. The British Prime Minister left New Delhi on 12 January.

— Danish Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Lesie Ostergaard, arrived in New Delhi on a 10-day visit to India.

— Mrs. Lilavati Munshi, wife of the late Dr. K.M. Munshi, died in Bombay. She was 79. Mrs. Munshi, like her husband, was actively associated with the Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan. She was also President of the Bhavan for some time.

7 Ajit Kumar Datta, former Advocate-General of West Bengal, died in Calcutta. He was 70. Mr. Datta became the Advocate General during the first United Front Government regime in West Bengal in 1967. He was one of the founder members of the Bengal Students Association. He was imprisoned several times for participation in the non-cooperation movement in 1930. Mr. Datta was the President of the All Bengal Lawyers Association and Chairman of the West Bengal Bar Council.

— Central Minister of State for Finance, Satish Agarwal announced a number of customs duty exemptions. The items exempted were : Medicines and drugs sent from abroad for free treatment of the poor and needy, all life-saving drugs and

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medical equipments which can be termed life-saving and medical, surgical and diagnostic equipment of the type not manufactured in India when imported by Government and Charitable hospitals which provide free service on a nominal charge to the general public,

**January 7** National Champion Prakash Padukone bagged a triple crown in the fourth All-India Open Invitation Badminton Tournament which concluded in Belgaum. He won men's double and mixed double.

**8** A 26-member delegation of Indian Agricultural bankers arrived in Kuala-Lumpur on a three-day visit to study and exchange ideas on co-operatives and credit programmes used by farmers in Malaysia.

— Four women were drowned and two persons were reported missing when a mechanised fishing boat, being used for pleasure trip, capsized in the sea off the Ayikkara coast near Cannanore.

— The Government announced new guidelines for the film censors in its attempt to simplify and rationalize censorship rules. The 10-point guidelines replacing the 18-year old rules were designed to ensure that artistic expressions and creative freedom were not unduly restricted and censorship could be made responsive to social changes.

— Meeting of the Congress Working Committee was held in New Delhi. All the top Congressmen attended the meeting.

— Shah Mohammad Umair, MLC, freedom fighter and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, died.

**9** An accord was signed between India and Belgium in Brussels, according to which India is to get a 375 million Belgian francs ($11,719 million) State-to-State interest-free loan. The loan is refundable over 20 years after a 10-year period of grace.

— The Child's World Prospects for Tomorrow—an exhibition depicting needs of children and many facts of their lives was inaugurated by the Union Education Minister, Dr. P.C. Chunder, in New Delhi. The exhibition highlights the objectives of the coming international year of the child in 1979 being observed by the United Nations.

**10** The Editors Council of India came into existence. Jang Bahadur Singh was elected President of the Council while M.P. Radhakrishnan was elected General Secretary.

— Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) signed an agreement in New Delhi with the General

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Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture which represents 21 Arab countries.

**January 10** Rear Admiral Krishna Deva, Managing Director of the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), disclosed at a news conference in Bombay, that all 69 persons on board the SCI bulk carrier, M.V. Chander Gupta, reported missing since 6th January, are believed to have perished on the high seas about 1000 miles of Honolulu coast.

**11** A conference on agriculture and rural development was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Morarji Desai in New Delhi. Addressing 12 Chief Ministers and representatives of all States and Union Territories, Mr. Desai said that the vicious circle of States, Panchayats and other groups each looking to the other for assistance should end.

— The Shah Commission ordered that a complaint be filed before a magistrate against former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, as she has committed an offence under section 179 of the Indian Penal Code by refusing to make a statement to the Commission. Earlier on 9th January Mrs. Gandhi appeared before the Shah Commission. On 13th January the Commission issued fresh summons to Indira Gandhi to appear before it on 19th January to give evidence relating to the developments between 12 to 22nd June, 1975, leading to the declaration of Emergency.

**12** India won the fourth test cricket match against Australia played in Sydney by an innings and two runs. India squared the series as it has lost first two test matches and won last two matches.

— Pranab Kumar Mukherjee refused to cooperate with Shah Commission at its hearing by declining to make any statement.

**13** An agreement on sound broadcasting was signed by India and German Democratic Republic. It provides for regular exchange of radio programmes depicting various aspects of development in the social, economic, scientific and cultural fields. The programme will be exchanged in the form of tape recordings and scripts and will comprise music programmes and radio plays besides scripts covering youth, education and scientific activities.

— Chief Election Commissioner, S.L. Shakdher announced that the elections to the State Assemblies of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Meghalaya and Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh would be held od 25th February.

— The Government of India has decided to reconstitute the Hindi Salahakar Samiti in the Ministry of Shipping and Trans-

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port. Chand Ram, Minister of State for Shipping and Transport will be the Chairman of the 19-member committee.

**January 13** Gujarat Assembly passed the Prohibition Bill, which provides for deterrent punishment to bootleggers and also to those who would arrive in the state from outside under the influence of liquor.

**14** P.N. Kaul, Chief of the Press Section of the United States Information Service, died in a scooter rikshaw in New Delhi.

— Ronnie de Mel, Sri Lanka's Finance Minister announced at a press conference in New Delhi that India has given a loan of Rs. 10 crores to Sri Lanka to finance the purchase of capital and intermediate goods from India during the current year. India has also agreed to extend an interest free commodity loan of 15,000 tonnes of wheat to that country.

— Five persons died and 15 others fell unconscious in a stampede as pilgrims rushed in thousands to take their holy dip at the confluence of the Ganga and the sea in Sagar island.

— Southern Command won the Inter-Services Boxing title after a lapse of four years pegging back the formidable Central Command to second place in the 27th Championship which concluded in Pune.

**15** An agreement was signed with Denmark for Danish International Agency's aid to India for the national programme for 'prevention of visual impairment and control of blindness'.

— The Central Government issued a notification appointing a Minorities Commission to safeguard the interests of the country-wide religious and linguistic minorities as a step forward to preserve secular traditions, promote national integration and remove a feeling of inequality and discrimination among the minorities. The Minorities Commission will consist of a chairman and two other members whose term of office will not ordinarily exceed three years. The officer appointed as special officer in terms of Article 350 (B) of the Constitution will function as the Secretary of the Commission.

— Dr. P.N. Kawathekar, a Sanskrit scholar has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of Vikram University in Ujjain. Dr. Kawathekar, who has been teaching Sanskrit for 25 years, had represented India at the International Congress of Orientalists in Paris in 1973.

— Indian Olympic Association (IOA) suspended the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) from its membership in view of its "continued mismanagement" of the hockey affairs. The IOA will manage the hockey affairs in the country till the working

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of the IHF was found satisfactory. The decision was taken at the IOA General assembly meeting which unanimously adopted a resolution to this effect.

**January 15** The Union Minister of State for Communications released a set of two stamps to commemorate the ascent of Kanchenjunga, India's highest and the world's third highest peak, by the Indian Army expedition earlier this spring. The multi-coloured stamps were of Re. 1 and twenty-five paise denominations. The 25 paise stamp showed a climber crossing a crevice and Re. 1 stamp depicted the Indian tricolour fluttering just six feet short of summit.

**16** According to an official release the Indo-Polish trade and payments agreement which expired on December 31, 1977, has been extended for another three years from 1st January by mutual consent. All commercial transactions between the two countries shall continue to be conducted on the basis of payments in non-convertible Indian rupees.

— A five-member Egyptian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy and Electricity, Ahmed Sultan, arrived in New Delhi on a 10-day visit to India, to study rural electrification in India and explore the possibilities of bilateral collaboration in the manufacture of power equipment.

— A five-member Soviet delegation led by Sarafim Ivanov, arrived in New Delhi, to expore the possibilities of Indo-Soviet cooperation in water conservancy development.

— A Presidental Ordinance was promulgated, according to which currency notes of denominations of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000 were demonetised. The notes ceased to be legal tender 'in payment or on account at any place' on the expiry of 16th January. The Ordinance provided that persons in possession of such currency notes can make declarations and submit these together with the notes in possession for exchanging them to designated authorities by 19th January. But in the declaration they will have to disclose the source.

— Two Scientists, A.I. Oparin of tne USSR and Sir George Porter of the UK were honoured with the 1976 Kalinga Prize for the popularisation of science at a function in Vigyan Bhavan. The award was presented by the Prime Minister, Morarji Desai.

— Venkatalakshmi Narasimha Rao Pantulu, well-known freedom fighter of Andhra Pradesh, died in Guntur. Mr. Rao, 98, was elected to the first Andhra Pradesh Assembly from the Guntur urban constituency and had acted as the temporary Speaker. He had played a notable part for the separation of Andhra.

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**January 16** A week-long International Solar Energy Congress was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, in Vigyan Bhavan (New Delhi). About 1000 solar energy experts, including 350 foreign delegates from 52 countries attended the congress. The congress took up for discussion nearly 400 papers on solar energy and plan future areas of the research. The discussion at the congress opened new vistas of knowledge about the possible uses of solar energy.

**17** Veerendra Kumar Saklecha was elected leader of the Janata Legislature Party, Madhya Pradesh by absolute majority. He was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on 18th January. He succeeded Kailash Joshi who had resigned for personal reasons. On 22nd January, 30 Ministers in Mr. Saklecha's new team were sworn-in.

**18** About 70 labourers were feared burried alive and 25 others injured when a portion of a bridge under construction over the Burhi Gandhak river collapsed at Singhia Ghat, about 20 km. from Samastipur.

— Bhimsen Sachar, elder statesman and former Punjab Chief Minister, died at Patti Kalyan near Panipat in Haryana. He was 84. Mr. Sachar was born in Peshawar and educated in Lahore. He gave up legal practice to join the non-cooperation movement in 1921. He was elected to the Punjab Legislative Assembly in 1936 and was Finance Minister of undivided Punjab for about a year. After independence he became the Chief Minister of Punjab upto 1949 and again between 1952 and 1956. He was Governor of Andhra Pradesh and later India's High Commissioner in Sri Lanka.

— Dr. M. Chenna Reddy was elected President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress (I) at the one day convention of the party at Hyderabad.

— The interim report of the Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice A.N. Grover, released its report. According to the report certain allegations of corruption and nepotism against the former Chief Minister of Karnataka, Devaraj Urs, have been established. The allegations so far established against Mr. Urs were :— favouritism in appointing his brother as director in the Karnataka State Film Industries Development Corporation, grant of land in violation of rules to his son-in-law, shielding certain officers against whom there were charges of corruption and favouritism in the matter of promotion of an officer as Chief Engineer. The Union Cabinet decided to remit to the Government of Karnataka, the task of initiating necessary follow-up action in regard to the findings contained in the first report of the Grover Commission in the allegations against the former Chief Minister of Karnataka and some of his Cabinet colleagues.

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**January 18** Talks opened in New Delhi between the Indian and Nepalese delegations on concluding treaties of trade and transit. The two teams were led by Jagat Mehta, Foreign Secretary of India and U.D. Bhatt, Foreign Secretary of Nepal.

— The Union Government approved a proposal to set up a super thermal plant at the coal pit-heads near Korba in Madhya Pradesh. The proposed power plant which will take three to four years to go into steam will be of the capacity of 1100 megawatts. It will cost as much as Rs. 450 crores.

— Y.G. Krishnamurthy, writer, author and litterateur, and also known as 'sun gazer' died in Calcutta. He was 62. Author of several books on Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Krishnamurthy published a volume entitled "Indian States and the Federal Plan", which became a basis for Indian States struggle for democratic freedom. In 1976, he gazed at the solar eclipse without a wink for its whole duration of 82 minutes at Cochin.

**19** Announced that India's Ambassador to the United Nations, Rikhi Jaipal, has been elected Chairman for 1978 of the Security Council's Committee on sanction against Rhodesia.

— Benoy Kumar Bose, a freedom fighter, died. He was 70. For his participation in the country's freedom movement, he suffered imprisonment for several years and spent the best part of his life in the Andaman jails.

— Justice Shah ordered that fresh cases be filed before a magistrate against the ex-Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, under sections 178 and 179 of the IPC for refusing to take oath (section 178) and refusing to answer questions (section 179). On 11th January Justice Shah had ordered Mrs. Gandhi's trial under section 179. On 20th January Shah Commission filed complaints against Mrs. Gandhi in the court of P. K. Jain, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi. Mr. Jain fixed February 9 for the hearing and ordered that summons be issued to the accused to appear in person before him on that day.

— The Lok Sabha Speaker, K.S. Hegde, inaugurated a two-day conference of Presiding Officers of Legislature, in New Delhi. Inaugurating the conference, he called on the Presiding Officers to ensure that the rules and practices of the legislature did not act as road-blocks and frustrate private members' initiative in bringing up matters requiring urgent consideration.

**20** B.M. Cariappa, Secretary-General of the Indian Tuberculosis Association, was awarded the diploma of honour by the Italian Federation of Tuberculosis Control, for his outstanding contribution to containment of the scourage in India during the last 30 years.

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**January 20** L.K. Advani, Information and Broadcasting Minister said that all recognised opposition parties would receive equal broadcast time over the radio in the states, which go to the poll next month.

— Punjab Chief Minister. Prakash Singh Badal commissioned the first 60 mw capacity power generation plant of the Pong Dam project.

— The Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation. Surjit Singh Barnala, reached Dacca to attend the first meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission, beginning on 21st January. The Commission carried out investigation and study of schemes relating to the augmentation of dry season flow of the Ganga as envisaged in the Farakka agreement between the two countries signed in November last year.

— The World Bank announced the approval of a loan of 25 million Us dollars to assist industrial development in Indla in the State-sponsored public joint sector. The loans to be channeled through the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) will meet the foreign exchange cost of investment in productive medium-scale industrial enterprise.

**21** The Election Commission announced that 1st February will be the last date for filing nominations by the political parties and candidates intending to contest the forthcoming Assembly elections. The five states going to polls on February 15 are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Meghalaya and the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

— India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission began its session at Dacca for the first time after the Farakka agreement came into force in November last year. Surjit Singh Barnala, Minister for Agriculture, became Chairman of the Commission for the current year. Meeting of the Commission concluded on 24th January.

— India was defeated in the East Zone Davis Cup Semi-final by New Zealand with a 4—1 verdict in their favour. The match was played in New Delhi.

— Leading industrialist Ramniwas Ramnarain Ruia died in Bombay. He was 67.

— The noted litterateur Nilomoni Phukan died in Jorhat. He was 98.

— National Executive of Janata Party concluded its one-day session at Thippagondanahalli, near Bangalore after discussing its strategy for the forthcoming elections in five states and one Union Terrirory.

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**January 22** Dr. Sarojini Mahishi and Kondaji Basappa, both Congress members of Lok Sabha and former Minister joined Janata Party.

**23** A.K. Anthony was unanimously elected leader of the Congress legislature party of Kerala replacing former Chief Minister Karunakaran, who was removed from primary membership of the Congress following his joining the Indira Party in the wake of Congress split.

— A colour port ait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was inaugurated in the Central Hall of Parliament by the President, N. Sanjiva Reddy.

— The Congress led by K. Brahmananda Reddy was allowed to use the 'Calf and cow' symbol in the Assembly elections in the five states and one Union Territory to be held in February, under a ruling given by S.L. Shakdher, Chief Election Commissioner.

— The Government appointed a 26-member National Committee on Women, with the Prime Minister, Morarji Desai as Chairman and the Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Culture as Vice-Chairman.

— Haryana Chief Mlnister, Devi Lal relinquished charge of five of the six portfolios he had held so far to enable him to concentrate on General Administration, the only portfolio he retained.

— Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, inaugurated the 27th annual conference of the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA), in New Delhi. Inaugurating the conference, Mr. Desai stressed the role tourism can play in lessening tension and creating better understanding in a strife-torn world. The conference concluded on 25th January.

— Shah Commission filed a second case against Mrs. Indira Gandhi in the court of P.K. Jain, under section 178 and 179 of Indian Penal Code for her refusal to take an oath and testify before the commission on 19th January. P.K. Jain issued orders summoning Mrs. Gandhi to appear before the court on 9th February.

**24** Eleven persons were killed and many injured when a service truck of the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation met with an accident near Upshi village ln Ladakh district.

**25** India and Egypt signed in New Delhi a protocol covering a wide spectrum of the power industry with emphasis on co-operation in the field of rural electrification.

— India and Ghana signed an agreement on air services between the two countries.

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**January 25** The maestro, Amyio Nath Sanyal, died in Krishnagar at the age of 83.

— President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick J. Hillery, accompadied by his wife arrived in New Delhi on the first leg of his two-week goodwill visit to India. During his stay in India he visited Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mazagaon Building Docks, Kovalam Beach, Taj Mahal, Bhakra Dam, Ajanta Caves, Madurai, Chandigarh and various other places and establishments.

— Tulsi Meharji Shrestha, an Octogenarian Nepalese Gandhian has been awarded the 1977 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. Tne award carries an amount of Rs. 1 lakh in cash and a citation has been given in recognition of Shrestha's contribution to the upliftment of the destitutes and down-trodden.

— Tunisian Minister for Culture, Chedly Klibi arrived in New Delhi, on a nine-day visit.

**27** India and Bangladesh at the conclusion of a three-day conference at Dacca agreed on the importance of implementing the 'understanding' reached between the two countries for the maintenance of peace on the border.

— Janos Vertes, Hungarian Ambassador in India, presented books valued at Rs. 10,000 to Delhi University.

— Nijibabad Station of All India Radio, the eighth AIR station in Uttar Pradesh was inaugurated. With the commissioning of this station the number of broadcasting centres of AIR has gone to 84.

— United States and India signed an agreement for a long term, low-interest loan to India for the purchase of upto 60,000 metric tonnes of edible oil this year. The agreement under Title 1 of US Public Law 480 is worth $27,800,000 (approximately Rs. 22.4 crores).

**28** The exchange rates for purchase of US dollar currency notes by authorised dealers and money changers from/to thc public have been revised with immediate effect.

**29** Ramesh Krishnan scored a straight set victory at 6-3, 6-3, by defeating his father Ramanathan Krishnan, to lift the Northern Indian Men's Lawn Tennis Singles title.

— The Children's film society was reconstituted with V. Santaram as Chairmain The other members of the new six-member executive committee are G.Jayaraman, A. V. Narayanan, Mrs. Kamini Kaushal, B.N. Nadharni and Mrs. Tara Ali Baig.

**30** The Rest of India won the Irani Cup against the reigning Ranji

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Trophy Champions, Bombay, by an inning and 168 runs, ten minutes after lunch on the fourth and final day of the match played in Bombay.

**January 31** — S. Nijalingappa resigned from the Janata Party. He sent his resignation to the Party President, Chandra Shekhar. He however withdrew his resignation on 23rd February.

— Acharya Kripalani was elected Chairmain for three years of the Board of Trustees of the Gandhi Samark Nidhi at its meeting in New Delhi. The post had been held by Dr. Shriman Narayan until his death recently. Acharya Kripalani in one of the founder trustees of the Nidhi. Eight new trustees were also appointed.

— P.C. Alexander Committee set up by the government to review the import and export policies and procedures, submitted its report to Mohan Dharia, Comerce Minister, recommending the adoption of a three year import policy instead of an annual one, special measures to help small-scale industries, decentralisation of the import of several items, simplification of export incentives and import procedure, a substantial liberalisation of imports, and an overall shift in emphasis from licensing controls to development measures.

— Steven Doronjiski, Yugoslav Vice-President, arrived in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India.

**February 1** — Buta Singh, General Secretary of Indira Congress informed newsmen that their party has been named Indian National Congress (I) and has applied for the symbol of either 'two bullocks with a yolk on' or 'farmer with two bullocks'. However on 2nd February the Election Commission recognised Indira Candhi's party as a national party to function in the name and style of 'Indian National Congress (Indira)' and gave it the common reserved symbol 'Hand'.

— The Cabinet decided to exempt recognized political parties from payment of income-tax on income from investments and donations from non-members and to exempt them entirely from wealth tax. But there was no indication when this decision will become effective.

— Prime Minister, Morarji Desai opened the second Indian Engineering Trade Fair in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The fair was organised by the Association of Indian Engineering Industry (AIEI).

— Samrendra Kundu, Minister of State for External Affairs arrived in Hanoi on a one-week visit to Vietnam to discuss economic and technical assistance to Vietnam. On 2nd February Mr. Kundu had talks at Hanoi with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister, Nguyen Duy Trinh on proposals for increased

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economic cooperation between the two countries. On 6th Feb., six days of intensive Indo-Vietnamese talks concluded at Hanoi with the two sides finalising draft agreements on trade and economic cooperation, scientific and technical cooperation and agricultural research. On 7th February a press communique was issued at Hanoi on the conclusion of the seven-day visit of Samrendra Kundu. Vietnam expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government and people of India for its gesture in extending cooperation to it in healing the wounds of war and reconstructing the country in a spirit of mutual understanding and mutual assistance among the non-aligned nations.

**February 1** V.C. Trivedi, former Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs died. He was 62. Starting his career in the Education Department in Bombay in 1940, Mr. Trivedi entered the Foreign Services in 1950 and served in various capacities in Indian Mission. He had served as acting High Commissioner in Pakistan, Ambassador to Switzerland and Ambassador to Vienna.

**2** Mahakavi G. Sankara Kurup, doyen of Malayalam poetry died in Trivandrum. He was 76. "Mahakavi G", as he was known was the recipient of the first Jnanpith award (1965) for his work "Odakkuzhal", the flute. In 1963 he was nominated a member of the Rajya Shaba and was honoured the same year with Padma Bhushan. His poems have been translated into Russian.

— Noted Urdu poet and former Mayor of Patna, R.P. Golwara, died. He was 69.

— Prof. V.P. Elutin, Soviet Minister of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education arrived in New Delhi on a nine-day visit. The main purpose of his visit was to discuss present and future cooperation in the field of higher education between the USSR and India.

— Rear Admiral M.R. Schunker was promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral and appointed Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, which has headquarters at Vishakhapatnam.

— Shah of Iran accompanied by the Shahbanou arrived in New Delhi on a four-day official visit to India. He was received by the President, N. Sanjiva Reddy, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues. Later the Shah and the Prime Minister Desai had their first round of talks. On 3rd February Shah made a generous offer of investments in India. The Iranian investment offer covers the Rajastan Canal, the setting up of a paper mill and of aluminium projects. On 4th February addressing a news conference, Shah of Iran carried forward his offer of heavy Iranian investments in India by stating that the joint Indo-Iran Commission would come out with new ideas to boost economic cooperation between the two countries.

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The Shah said he has been greatly impressed by the outcome of the first phase of Rajasthan Canal and announced his decision to participate in the second phase. A Joint Communique was issued on 5th February at the end of Shah of Iran's four-day state visit. According to the communique Iran has offered India additional crude supplies annually at the OPEC price on credit, the rupee equivalent of which is to be used for financing the second stage of Rajasthan Canal, and aluminium project based on the eastern coast deposits of bauxite and a paper and pulp factory in Tripura. The communique confirmed the close similarity of views of the two countries on international issues, regional problems and bilateral relations of India and Iran.

**February 3** Australia beat India by 47 runs in the fifth cricket test played at Adelaide to clinch the five-test series 3-2.

— India and North Korea signed an agreement ending the rupee trade agreement. They agreed to change over from 1st March, 1978 to trade in convertible currency.

— India and Russia signed a contract for the supply of 1.5 million tonnes of Soviet crude oil to India during 1978. The supplies are valued Rs. 115 crores. It is an increase of 50% over last year's crude supply from Russia.

— National Council of the Youth Congress having 62 members was formed. The new Youth Congress will not be an independent organisation like the earlier one but an adjunct of the Congress led by Brahmananda Reddy.

4 Chinese Vice-Premier, Teng Hsiao Ping, talking to newsmen at Kathmandu said that China is eager to have closer relations with India. But on matters of bilateral relations it requires the efforts of two sides.

— The General Council of the Sahitya Akademi unanimously elected Prof. Uma Shankar Joshi, the distinguished Gujarati poet, as its President for a term of five years.

— K.M.D. Thackersey, head of the Thackersey group of concerns and elder brother of Vijay Merchant, well known cricketer, died.

— P.K. Thungon, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and Nokeong Baham, both Janata Party candidates were declared elected uncontested in the first general elections to the 30-member assembly.

5 Bengal won the National Foot-ball title (Santosh Trophy) for the 17th time, and for the third year in succession, when they defeated Punjab 3-1 in the replayed final on the Mohan Bagan grounds in Calcutta.

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**February 6** A 10-member Indian Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, arrived in Seoul for a five-day visit to South Korea.

— External Affairs Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee arrived in Islamabad. He had an hour long meeting with the Pakistani Chief Martial Law Administrator, General Zia-ul-Huq. After the meeting General Huq said that there is a limitless scope for cooperation and friendship between India and Pakistan provided the Kashmir issue is solved and greater trust developed between the two countries. General Huq described the talks as very friendly. Speaking at a banquet given by Agha Shahi, Foreign Affairs Adviser to Chief Martial Law Administrator, Mr. Vajpayee said that India and Pakistan could realise their full potential for progress only by marching side by side and seeking ways to meaningful and beneficial cooperation. On 7th February, Mr. Vajpayee, addressing a press conference shortly before he left for Lahore, said that the question of Kashmir could be discussed by the two countries in accordance with the Simla agreement with a view to solving the problem only after the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries was complete. Mr. Vajpayee came back to New Delhi on 8th February. Talking to newsmen on his return from Pakistan, Mr. Vajpayee said that a better climate of understanding has been created between the two countries following his visit to Pakistan. He said his talks included trade, agriculture, culture and sports. He further said that officers of India and Pakistan would soon meet to consider ways of ensuring greater mutual benefit from trade between the two countries.

— Foreign Minister of Mongolia, Manglyne Dugersuren, arrived in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India. He held discussions with his Indian counterpart, Atal Behari Vajpayee. Both of them agreed that the border dispute between Vietnam and Cambodia (Kampuchea) should be solved by negotiations and not by force. On 8th February, a trade agreement was signed between India and Mongolia by Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Co-operation and visiting Foreign Minister of Mongolia. According to the agreement India and Mongolia will switch over to trade in freely convertible currency with effect from 14th February. On 9th February the visiting Foregin Minister also signed an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation. The agreement provides for promoting cooperation in the field of education, culture, science, agriculture, public health, art, literature, sports and mass media. Dr. P.C. Chunder, Union Education Minister signed the agreement on behalf of India. On 10th February Manglyne Dugersuren concluded his visit and a Joint Communique was issued at the end of his visit.

— The Managing Director of Air-India, K.G. Appuswamy, said in Bombay that he had decided to relinquish his appointment and

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urged the Government to relieve him of his duties from 1st April. Mr. Appuswamy was giving his reaction to the appointment of Air Chief Marshal P.C. Lal, as full-time Chairman of Air India and Indian Airlines in succession to J.R.D. Tata who was part-time Chairman. The Government formally announced the appointment of Air Chief Marshal P.C. Lal as the common Chairman of both Air India and Indian Airlines on 10th February.

**February 7** An agreement was signed in New Delhi under which the World Food Programme of the United Nations will give India food aid worth Rs. 23.8 crores over a period of one and a half years commencing from April.

— In Rajasthan, five new Cabinet Ministers and two Ministers of State were sworn-in raising the strength of Rajasthan Ministry to 17. The new Cabinet Ministers were Purushottam Mantri, Surya Narain Choudhry, Bhanwar Lal Sharma, Digvijay Singh and Jai Narain Pooniya. The Ministers of State were Lal Chand and Nand Lal Meena. Kailash Meghwal, a Minister of State, was promoted as Cabinet Minister.

**8** A 16-member Chinese trade delegation representing various imports and exports corporations arrived in New Delhi on a 15-day visit at the invitation of the STC, MMTC and SAIL international and the HMT international. The delegation was led by Liu Ching. On 9th February the visiting trade delegation began preliminary talks with the representatives of the STC, MMTC, SAIL and HMT to explore possible areas of trade between the two countries. On 24th February the Chinese delegation concluded its visit to India without signing any contracts.

— Fifty-six people were killed and 13 injured when a U.P. roadways bus plunged into the Sai river while crossing the bridge, 12 km from Jaunpur.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai inaugurated a three-day third international seminar of economic journalists organised by the Forum of Financial Writers which discussed emerging trends in the world economy.

— Report on the independence silver jubilee time capsule was presented to the Union Education Minister, Dr. P.C. Chunder by Yagya Dutt Sharma, Chairman of the six-member Commitee of the Members of Parliament. The Committee was appointed by the government to supervise the retrieval of the capsule, witness its opening, prepare an inventory and certify the contents, including the actual text of the historical account.

— South Zone lifted the coveted Vizzy cricket trophy, beating North Zone by virtue of their first innings lead on the fourth and final day of the match played in Jammu.

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February 8 — Union Cabinet approved three projects with an ultimate generating capacity of nearly 3,000 megawatts to meet the acute scarcity of power in Super Thermal power station near Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh, a lignite based station at Neyveli and another unit for the Badarpur station at Delhi.

9 — An 11-member economic delegation, led by Samarendra Kundu, Minister of State for External Affairs, arrived in Bangkok on a one-day visit to Thailand. During his stay in Bangkok Mr. Kundu had discussed with the Thai Foreign Minister the possibility of expanding bilateral trade between India and Thailand.

— Aijaz Siddiqui, a noted Urdu poet, died in Bombay. He was 60. Mr. Siddiqui, winner of an award from Maharashtra Urdu Akademi, has been editor of the Urdu magazine 'Shair'.

— Announced that Mira Behn, life-time associate of Gandhiji was presented with the International Women's Year Award for outstanding services to India at a special ceremony in Vienna.

— Justice R.S. Pathak, Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court. He was sworn-in on 20th February.

— Nine persons were killed and eleven injured when the Madras-Howrah Janata Express collided with the rear of a stationary goods train at Vedayapalem station on the Gudur-Nellore station of the Vijayawada division of the South Central Railway.

— Pakistan beat India 2-1 in the first hockey test between the two countries at the Wankhede Stadium in Bombay.

— A trade agreement signed in April 1972 during the Government of the late President Salvador Allenda between India and Chile came into effect.

— Two-day conference of shipping builders, shipowners and chairmen of the port trust was inaugurated in New Delhi by the Minister for Shipping and Transport, Chand Ram.

10 — The Government constituted a study team, headed by Kishen Patnaik, former member of Parliament, to examine the working of youth hostels and to sugges tmeasures for improvement in their functioning.

11 — Satyapriya Roy, renowned educationist and a former Education Minister of West Bengal, died in Calcutta. He was 73.

— The third World Book Fair with nearly two lakh titles on display was inaugurated by the Vice-President B.D. Jatti, in New Delhi. Over 200 publishers from 35 countries participated

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in the fair. There were 400 Indian participants representing almost the entire publishing trade in the country.

**February 12** Sardar C.S. Angre (84), Foreign and Political Minister and Vice-President of the Executive Council (Cabinet) of the former Gwalior State, died. Sardar Angre was a member of the Rajya Sabha. He held an honorary rank of Colonel in Army.

**13** Fifth Industrial Relations Conference started in New Delhi.

— The Janata Party President, Chandra Shekhar sustained head injuries when a mob of Congress supporters attacked his car with lathis and stones at Akhluj in Sholapur district in Maharashtra.

— Khagendra Nath Mitra. a pioneer in children's literature in Bengal, died. He was 83. Mr. Mitrâ is credited with having written about 80 books for children including 'Bhombal Sardar' and "Banglar Dacoit'. He was given the national award in 1975 for his famous work 'Chumantra'.

— Mrs. Vajayalakshmi Pandit, Indian representative on the Human Rights Commission, has been elected Chairman of a working group set up by the commission to draft a convention on torture. Mrs. Pandit has also been elected chairman of the non-aligned group at the 34th session of the commission meeting in Geneva.

-- Rear Admiral O.S. Dawson, AVSM, has been appointed as Flag Officer Commanding, Eastern Fleet. Real Admiral D.S. Paintal, AVSM, has assumed charge as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff. Real Admiral S.L. Sethi, AVSM, has assumed charge as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff.

— Santawana Kumar Das, a veteran journalist, died. He was 60. Mr. Das began his career as the Statesman's Correspondent in Gauhati. He subsequently joined the Tribune. Until his retirement about two years ago, he was special representative of the Amrita Bazar Patrika in Delhi.

**14** According to an announcement made at a press Conference by Satish Agarwal, Minister of State for Finance, the gold control rules have been amended by the Union Government to enable certified goldsmiths to make and sell ornaments in limited quantities against specified orders from customers.

— India is to receive $ 1.6 million Australian aid according to an announcement made in Sydney by the Australia's Foreign Minister. This aid is a part of the special action programme pledged by Australia at the last session of the conference on International Economic Cooperation.

— Officially announced that the President has appointed Justice

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Mian Jalal-Ud-Din to be the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir.

**February 14** Union Home Ministry has constituted a working group on tribal development under the chairmanship of Dhanik Lal Mandal, Minister of State. It will have 38 members including 13 secretaries to various departments, state governments, representatives, social scientists, research workers and eminent people from the voluntary organisations working among the Scheduled Tribes.

**15** C.M. Stephen, M.P., announced his decision to join the Congress under the leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

— Eight people died and twenty were injured when a lorry fell into a ditch near Gottiveedu in Cuddapah district in Hyderabad.

— Finance Ministry set up committee under the chairmanship of Vadilal Dagli to evaluate and review the entire gamut of control on prices production, distribution, licensing and imports.

— H.R. Gokhale, former Union Law Minister, died in New Delhi. He joined Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Cabinet after the 1971 general election. In the Lok Sabha elections last year he lost to Ram Jethmalani.

— President N. Sanjiva Reddy presented the Arjuna Awards, the highest honour for excellence in sports, to 28 men and women at a simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The awards were for 1975 and 1976. The award winners were Sunil Gavaskar and Shanta Rangaswamy (cricket), B.P. Govinda and Rupa Saini (hockey), Smita Desai (Swimming), Anusuya Bai, Geeta Zutshi and Hari Chand (Athletics), Ami Ghai and Devinder Ahuja (badminton) and Major Virendra Pal (Polo).

**16** An agreement on scientific and technical cooperation envisaging grant of scholarship for specialised training, joint research and exchange of experts and scientific and technical personnel was signed in New Delhi between India and Syria. The Industry Minister, George Fernandes and his Syrian counterpart, S.Seifo signed the agreement on behalf of their countries.

— In Karachi, Pakistan blasted India 6-0 in their third hockey test to clinch the four test series between the two world giants.

– M.P. Narayanan Nair, MLA from Karnataka, died.

— Reverend Father Emmanuel A. Pallikunnen, executive director of Catholic hospital association of India, died. He was 52.

**17** Ram Kinker, Minister of State for Works and Housing, arrived at Kathmandu on a three-day visit to see the Indian aided projects.

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**February 18** B.D. Jatti, Chairman of the Rajya Sabha declared that Kamlapati Tripathi has ceased to function as leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha from 15th February. However on 20th February, Y.B. Chavan nominated Bhola Pawsan Shastri as leader of the Congress Party in the Rajya Sabha in place of Kamlapati Tripathi. On 24th February Bhola Paswan Shastri was declared opposition leader in Rajya Sabha.

— C.V. Rajagopal, member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Council, died in Kancheepuram.

— Fourth national convention of Indian authors was inaugurated in New Delhi by Education Minister P.C. Chunder who also presented awards for excellence in writing for 1977.

— Justice Yashwant Vishnu Chandrachud, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, was appointed as the next Chief Justice of India. He succeeded Justice M. H. Beg. He was sworn-in on 22nd February. Born in July 1920, Mr. Chandrachud had a brilliant academic career and topped the list of successful candidates in the law examination of Bombay University.

— Kamlapati Tripathi, member of the Congress (I) working committee announced that C.M. Stephen will be the leader of the Congress (I) in Lok Sabha.

**19** India defeated Pakistan by two goals to one in the fourth and final hockey test played in Lahore.

— A Libyan Civil Aviation delegation arrived in Delhi on a four-day visit to India to hold talks on further cooperation between India and Libya in aviation.

— Major-General Joseph Everard Denis Pereja, Army Chief of Sri Lanka, arrived in New Delhi on a 12-day visit to India, at the invitation of General T.N. Raina, Chief of the Army Staff.

— Pankaj Kumar Mullick (73), eminent musician and exponent of Tagore song died.

**20** Dr. Amir Mohammad, Pakistan President's adviser on Food, Agriculture and Cooperative, arrived in New Delhi on an eleven day tour for discussions with Indian agriculture scientists and acquaint himself with latest techniques in the field.

— India and USSR signed a trade protocol for the year 1978. The trade would include increasing quantities of non-traditional items provided for in the list of Indian exports to the Soviet Union.

— A new party called the Communist League of India (Marxist-Leninist) was formed with Ram Nath as General Secretary

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of its Central Committee. The party according to Ram Nath was formed at a conference held in Bihar on 8th and 9th February. The party will work in collaboration with other Marxist-Leninist Organisations to reorganise a single party.

**February 20** Opening the budget session of the Parliament, the President N. Sanjiva Reddy said that the Government proposes to introduce a comprehensive Bill to remove the dark spots introduced through the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act. The President gave encouraging picture of economy. He said that to ratify the defects of an inherited economy the Government proposes to terminate the Fifth Five Year Plan this year and usher in a new plan from April. The objectives of the Janata's first major exercise in planning would be removal of unemployment and substantial underemployment in the shortest possible time, increasing the availability of basic goods to people to the low income groups, reduction in the rich-poor gap and progress towards self-reliance.

— Prof. B.R. Shenoy (73), noted economist, died. Prof. Shenoy was director of the Economic Research Centre, New Delhi. He was associated with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank as executive director for some years. He was also a professor in the Gujarat University.

**21** Kedar Ghosh (63), veteran journalist and former editor of the Bengali dialy "Basumati" died.

— Lakshmidas Purshottam Aasher (95), a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel died in Bombay.

— Lok Sabha passed the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill to raise the age of marriage of girls from 15 to 19 and that of boys from 18 to 21 years.

— Railway Minister Madhu Dandavate presented Rs. 65.43 crore surplus budget for 1978-79 presented to the Lok Sabha. In this budget railway freight rates have been left untouched and more concessions offered to second class passengers.

**22** Charley H.M. Barday, (78), veteran sports journalist, died in Bombay.

— Government set up a Minorities Commission with Minoo Masani as its chairman. The other members are Justice M.R. Ansari, former Chief Justice of the Jamum and Kashmir High Court and Dr. V.V. John, eminent educationist. The scope of work of the Commission covers religious as well as linguistic minorities.

— The commission will evalaute safeguards provided in the Constitution for the protection of minorities and will also

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serve as a national clearance house for information in respect of the conditions of minorities.

Eebruary 22 — H.V.R. Iengar (76), former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, died in Bangalore.

— Mrs. Nandini Satpathy, a member of the national executive of the Janata Party was arrested at Bhubaneswar and released on bail. She was arrested in a case filed by the vigilance police on a complaint by Shyam Sunder Mohaptra, a former Congress member of Parliament alleging criminal misappropriation of over Rs. 1.27 lakhs from over Rs. 1.66 lakhs collected by Nandini Satpathy in 1971 in the name of Orissa Pradesh Congress Souvenir Committee when she was a member of the Union Cabinet.

— Mrs. Sapan Mala (45), a Punjabi poetess, died in Jammu. She got the State's Sahitya Academy prize twice and her translation of Diwan-e-Ghalib in Punjabi is well known.

— Preparatory official level discussion in connection with the next meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation began in New Delhi.

— Sanskrit scholar, Gobinda Maharaj (83), died in Calcutta.

23 — Fifth International Wheat Genetic Symposium was inaugurated in New Delhi by Surjit Singh Barnala, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation.

— India and Liberia initialled two agreements which are expected to open up immense possibilities between the two eountries for commercial, economic and industrial cooperation.

— S. Nijalingappa withdrew his resignation from the Janata party which he had announced on 31st January.

— Three days talk on trade begun in New Delhi between India and Bangladesh. The Indian delegation was led by R.D. Thapar, Commerce Secretary and the Bangladesh Delegation by Matiu Rehman, Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce.

— Union Government has reconstituted the Central Hindi Committee with the Prime Minister Morarji Desai as its chairman.

24 — Air Chief Marshal H. Moolgavkar left for Iraq.

— Bhola Paswan Shastri was declared leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha, replacing Kamalapati Tripathi.

— Prime Minister of Vietnam, Pham Van Dong, arrived in New Delhi on a six-day visit to India. Later addressing Members of

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Parliament, the Vietnamese Premier underlined the identity of views between India and his country on a number of questions of mutual concern. On 25th February, the Vietnamese Prime Minister told a news conference at New Delhi that Morarji Desai has accepted his request for granting a wheat loan of three lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 45 crores to Vietnam to tide over its food problem caused by failure of harvest during the last two consecutive years. On 26th February India and Vietnam signed a agreement under which India will provide Vietnam with a credit of Rs. 10 crores for a purchase of railway equipment and other goods besides livestock from India. Besides this agreement they signed separate accords for cooperation in the fields of agricultural research, trade and economic matter, science and technology and culture and education. On 26th February itself a civic reception was given to the Vietnamese Prime Minister by R.K. Gupta, Mayor of Delhi.

**February 24** V.M. Tarkunde and Gobinda Mukhoty resigned as President and Vice-President respectively of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

**25** Dr. Parshuram Laxman Vaidya (88), noted Indologist and Sanskrit scholar, died. A recipient of the Presidential honour as national Sanskrit merit scholar in 1963, he earned global acclaim for his scholarly work of editing the texts of Jain and Buddhist 'agamas'—the fundamental principles of these two religions.

— Nedungottu Philip Alexander, Ambassador of India to Burma, has been appointed Ambassador of India to Sweden in succession to Samarendranath Sen.

— Union Government decided to pay another instalment of dearness allowance to its employees from 1st January, 1978. Announcement to this effect was made by the Finance Minister H.M. Patel in Lok Sabha on 27th February.

**26** Noted producer-director Devendra Goel (59) died.

— Congress (I) secured absolute majority in the Karnataka assembly elections, having won 134 out of 202 results declared. Janata Party got 56 seats. Former Chief Minister of Karnataka, D. Devaraj Urs was declared elected. The State Party Chief of Congress, K. H. Patil was defeated. On 27th February result of all the 224 seats wers declared. Party position was ; Total seats—224, Congress (I)-140, Janata Party-59, Congress-2, Maharashtra Ekkikaran Samiti-5, CPI-3, RPI-1, RPI (Gavi)-1, Independents-48, Muslim League-1. On 27th February itself the former Chief Minister, D. Devaraj Urs was unanimously elected leader of Congress (I) legislature party. On 28th February, he was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Accepting the responsbility of defeat

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of Congress in the Karnataka Assembly election, K.H. Patil resigned on 27th February from the Presidentship of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

**February** 26 Justice Anand Prakash Sen, Judge of the Rajasthan High Court was appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh with effect from 28th February.

— President N. Sanjiva Reddy commissioned the third blast furnance of the Bokaro Steel Plant.

— A two-member World Bank team headed by J.B.O. Loughlim approved setting up of a Rs. 23.07 crores integrated horticulture development project for Jammu and Kashmir. The State had sought the Bank's financial assistance.

27 Brahmananda Reddy resigned from the Congress Presidentship assuming responsibility for the defeat of the Congress Party in Karnataka.

— Congress won 13 seats out of 32 seats declared in 60 member Meghalaya Assembly. Chief Minister, Capt. Williamson Sangma was declared elected. On 28th February result of all the 60 seats was declared and the party position was : Congress-20, APHLC-16, HSPDP-14 and Independents-10.

— Congress (I) won absolute majority in the Andhra Pradesh assembly elections by capturing 156 seats in the 294 member assembly out of 254 results declared. Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, President of the Congress (I) in the State, Chief Minister J. Vengal Rao were declared elected. On 28th February the result of all the 294 seats were declared and the party position was: Total seats: 294, Congress (I)-175, Janata-60, Congress-30, CPI(M)-8, CPI-6 and others including independents 15. On 28th February itself Chief Minister J. Vengal Rao submitted his resignation following Congress Party's defeat in the election and the Governor dissolved the fifth legislative assembly with effect from 1st March.

— Former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi appeared in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, P.K. Jain, in connection with two cases filed against her for not taking oath and refusing to testify before the Shah Commission on two occassions. She was granted bail on furnishing personal bond for Rs. 2,000 and surities in the like amount. P.K. Jain also agreed to exempt her from personal appearance till further orders. The Magistrate fixed 18th March for scrutiny of documents in the cases against the two accused being relied upon the commission.

— Janata Party captured 51 of 150 seats declared in the 288 members Maharashtra Assembly. Chief Minister, Vasantrao B. Patil and the former Chief Minister, S.B. Chavan, were

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declared elected. On 28 February results of all the 288 seats were declared and the party position was : Total seats-288, Janata-99, Congress-70, Congress (I)-62, PWP-13, CPI (M)-9, CPI-1 and others including independents-34.

**February** 27 — President N. Sanjiva Reddy presented national awards for 1978 to 10 master craftsmen of the country.

— Punjab men's team won the National Volleyball Championship (15-12, 5-15, 15-7) for the seventh time, defeating Rajasthan.

— Railways beat holders Bengal in five hard-fought games to claim the women's title of the 26th National Volleyball Championship held in Calcutta.

28 Finance Minister, H.M. Patel presented in the parliament the Union Budget for 1978-79. He estimated the total revenue receipts in 1978-79 at Rs. 17,021 crores and expenditure at 18,417 crores. The overall budgetary gap of Rs. 1,396 crores will be reduced to Rs. 1,050 crores with new tax yields. Although the total new yield will be Rs. 549.5 crores, the net accrued to the Centre will be Rs. 346 crores after meeting the States' share of Rs. 95.5 crore and providing for the withdrawal of the bank interest tax. Higher taxes on virtually every product attracting excise duty, the sale of gold from government stocks, higher rates of compulsory deposit, slashing of bank interest rates, several incentives for investment in new companies and building are some important features of the budget.

— Janata Party won 48 seats out of 115 results declared in the 126-member Assam Constituency.

— Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, sister of Shah of Iran arrived in New Delhi on a week's official visit to India.

**March 1** Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Vasantrao Patil submitted resignation of his Ministry to the Governor. After a series of discussion Janata Party offered unconditional support to the Congress in forming a Government. On 2nd March, two blocks, one consisting of the Janata Party and its allies and the other of the Congress and Congress (I) claimed majority support for forming a government in the State. The Chief Minister Vasantrao Patil claimed that he would easily manage the support of 150 members. On 3rd March the Congress and the Congress (I) at a meeting reached an agreement to form a joint front Government in the State. Later Mr. Patil was re-elected leader of the Congress Legilative Party and N.K.Tirpude was elected leader of the Congress (I) Legislative Party and they presented a joint letter to the Governer, Sadiq Ali, claiming the right to form a Government in the State with the support of 150 members. On 4th March Janata Party also claimed to form a Government with the support of 145 MLAs.

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On 6th March Vasantrao B. Patil was invited to form the Congress-Congress (I) Coalition Government. On 7th March, Mr. Patil of the Congress and N.K. Tirpude of Congress (I) were sworn-in as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister espectively. On 11th March, Mr. Patil named 26 Ministers for the Coalition Ministry and the Ministry was sworn-in on 12th March.

**March 1** The Privileges Committee of the Lok Sabha, in a report presented to the House, held that certain remarks by the ex-PM, Mrs. Indira Gandhi in a press statement of 15th July, 1977 cast aspersions and attributed motives tending to undermine the dignity and the authority of Parliament and thus they amount to a breach of privileges and contempt of the House. The Committee considered it necessary to "caution her to be more careful in future in her comment on the proceedings of the House or on speeches of members in the House." On 3rd March, Lok Sabha agreed with its Committee of Privileges report but recommended that the matter be dropped and further action may not be taken against Mrs. Gandhi.

— Results of all the Assembly seats for Assam were declared. The final party position was: total seats-126, Janata-53, Congress-26, CPI (M)-11, Congress (I)-8, CPI-5, RCPI-4, ITCA-4, SUCI-2, CPI(ML)-1 and Independents-12. The elections were held on 25th February.

— Swaran Singh was unanimously chosen acting President at the Congress Working Committee CWC) meeting. In a short resolution, the CWC accepted with great regret, the resignation of Brahmananda Reddy from the Congress Presidentship.

2 As a follow-up action on the basis of the report of the Grover Commission, the CBI has registered a regular case for investigation against the Karnataka Chief Minister, Devaraj Urs, relating to the grant of 20 acres of land, to Dr. M.D, Nataraj, his son-in law.

— Bashir Ahmed, 53, a Janata Party member of the Lok Sabha from Fatehpur, died in Allahabad.

— The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill, 1978 fixing the minimum age for marriage at 21 for boys and 18 for girls, as passed by the Lok Sabha earlier, was passed by the Rajya Sabha.

— Komragiri Narayana Rao, freedom fighter, died.

— Pandit Sukhlalji Sanghvi, 97, an eminent Indologist and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, died at Ahmedabad.

— Rajya Sabha passed the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, as passed earlier by the Lok Sabha.

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March 2 Reported that External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has been unanimously elected the Chancellor of the Gandhi Vidya Mandir.

— S.C. Sinha, Chief Minister of Assam submitted his resignation and the State Assembly was dissolved by the Governor on 4th March.

3 B.G. Verghese, Chairman of the 12-member working group on autonomy for Akashwani and Doordarshan submitted its report to Information and Broadcasting Minister, L.K. Advani. The Committee was set up by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to examine the functional, financial and legal aspects to give autonomy to All India Radio and Doordarshan. The two volume report was presented to the Parliament on 9th March. It has recommended a single autonomous National Broadcasting Trust (NBI)-Akash Bharati, with a high decentralised structure. It has made wide ranging recommendations to transform Akashvani and Doordarshan into a more responsive organisation from a mere government department.

— Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Captain Williamson Sangma, submitted the resignation of his Ministry to the Governor. On 8th March under an agreement reached on the leadership issue of the United Legislative Party, D.D. Pugh, General Secretary of the APHLC and S.D.Khongwir of the HSPDP were elected Leader and the Deputy Leader respectively. The first coaliton Government in Meghalaya under the Chief Ministership of Darwin Dieu Dohpugh was sworn-in on 10th March.

— A cultural exchange programme between India and East Germany for 1978-79 was signed in New Delhi. The programme covers a wide range of subjects in the field of science, art and culture, agriculture, public health, sports and mass media.

— Dr. M. Chenna Reddy was unanimously elected leader of the Congress (I) Legislative Party of Andhra Pradesh. On 6th March he was administered the oath of the Chief Minister of State. On 9th March Dr. Reddy announced 39-member Ministry and on 10th March 32 Ministers were sworn-in.

— Lakshmi Kant Jha, a former Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, died. He was 90.

— President Mohammad Daoud of Afghanistan arrived in New Delhi on a three-day official visit to India. He was accompanied by his Ministers of Justice, Commerce and Foreign Affairs. He addressed membres of Parliament and later on a banquet was held in his honour by the President N. Sanjiva Reddy. On 4th March addressing a press conference President Daoud reiterated his government's support of Baluchis and Pakhtoons in Pakistan. On 5th March at the

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conclusion of President Daoud's visit a joint communique agreeing to strengthen and widen bilateral cooperation in economic, technical and commercial matters was issued.

**Mareh 3** Twenty people were killed and several injured in a roadways bus accident, 13 km from Lucknow.

— Vice-President B.D.Jatti opened a two-day second All-India Conference on Internal Audit.

4 Abdul Ghani Goni, former Speaker of Jammu and Kashmir assembly was appointed the first Resident Ambassador of India to Jordan.

— Election Commission announced the schedule for biennial elections to fill one-third of the Rajya Sabha seats. The schedule was as follows : March 15 - last date for nomination, March 16-scrutiny, March 18-last date for withdrawals, date of Poll-March 27 - Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Delhi, March 28-Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, March 29-Bihar, Haryana, Meghalaya and April 3 - Madhya Pradesh.

— Finance Minister, H.M.Patel and Mauritius Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Veersamy Ringadoo, signed an agreement in New Delhi, according to which India will extend a credit of ten crore rupees to Mauritius to finance purchases in India of a variety of capital and intermediate goods and some agricultural commodities.

— India and Afghanistan signed an agreement in New Delhi according to which India will supply wheat to help Afghanistan to tide over a temporary shortage.

5 Vidyanand Videh, 79, vedic scholar died. He was the author of about 80 books including some commentaries on Vedas.

— The World Bank announced an assistance of Rs. 108 crores for the construction of 149 km of roads in Kota district.

— Golap Borbora, president of the Assam Janata Party, was unanimously elected leader of the Assam Janata Legislative Party. On 11th March, Mr. Borbora announced 14-member Ministry and the Ministry excluding 4 Ministers was sworn in on 12th March.

— India and the Soviet Union signed a protocol providing for a wide programme of collaboration involving a number of new economic fields. They will include the setting up of a 600,000 tonne alumina project, modernisation of the Bokaro and Bhilai steel plants, setting up of a blast furnace complex on the east coast, and cooperation in oil exploration in Tripura.

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**March 5** Justice S S. Sandhawalia of Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered that Maruti Ltd. be wound up under Section 433(F) of the Indian Companies Act, 1957, since the very object for which the company was incorporated had failed. On 16th March, Justice Sandhawalia granted permission to the petitioner, Punjab National Bank, to file a suit for recovery of Rs. 1.8 crores against Maruti Ltd., Sanjay Gandhi and other person.

.. S.K.Rau, editor Searchlight, died in New Delhi.

7 A 12-member Chinese Goodwill delegation, led by Wang Pin-Nan, President of the Chinese Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, arrived in New Delhi on a two-week visit at the invitation of All India Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis Memorial Committee. On 8th March, the External Affairs Minister, A.B.Vajpayee accepted in principle an invitation to visit China, extended to him by Wang Pin-Nan on behalf of Huang Hua, his counterpart in China.

— Chief Minister of Karnataka, Devaraj Urs, announced a 20-member Council of Ministers.

8 Chief of Army Staff, Gen. T.N. Raina reached New York on a ten-day visit to the United States at the invitation of US Army.

— B.D. Jatti, Chairman of Rajya Sabha, recognised the Congress (I) as a separate political group in Rajya Sabha with Kamalapati Tripathi as its leader. With 61 members, the Congress (I) has emerged as the second largest party in the House with the Congress which has 72 members.

— Justice D.M. Chandrasekhar, the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court was appointed Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court and he was sworn-in on 22nd March.

— Justice Satish Chandra, a senior most judge of the Allahabad high court, was appointed Chief Justice of the Court. He was sworn-in on 22nd March.

9 The Bahrain Minister for Works, Power and Water, Majid-al-Jishi, arrived on a nine-day visit to India.

— External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee left for Mauritius to participate in its independence day celebrations. On 14th March Mauritius Prime Minister, Sir Seewasagar Ramgoolam and External Affairs Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee signed a protocol to set up a joint Economic Commission. Mr. Vajpayee returned on 15th March and described his visit as most successful.

— Finance Committee of the Danish Foketing (Parliament) approved a $ a million aid to India.

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**March 9** India and Belgium agreed to raise the quota of passengers and freight to be carried by the Belgian Airlines Sabena to and from India.

— K.S. Hegde, Speaker of Lok Sabha announced that Congress (I) has been accorded recognition as a separate political party in the Lok Sabha, with C.M.Stephen as its leader.

— Poll results of all the 30-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly were declared. Final party position was Janata-17, PPA-8, and Independents-5.

— Swaran Singh announced the new Congress Working Committee. Its members are : Swaran Singh, Y.B.Chavan. Brahmananda Reddy, C. Subramaniam, Hitendra Desai, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Baldeo Singh Arya, Dr. Karan Singh, V.P.Naik, Chandrajit Yadav, P.R.Das Munshi, Mohammad Ali, D.S. Pupawate, A.K.Anthony and Mohammed Shafi Qureshi.

10 K. Ramamurthy was elected Deputy Chief Whip of the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party in the Lok Sabha.

— L.M. Singhvi has been elected to the United Nations sub-commission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities.

— R R.S.R. Ranga Rao, a former premier of the Composite Madras State, died.

11 P.K. Thungan was unanimously re-elcted leader of the Janata Legislative Party in Arunachal Pradesh.

— Tenzing Namgyal, former crown prince of Sikkim was killed when his car rolled down a khud on Namang road in Gangtok.

12 Acharya J.B. Kripalani, Chairman of the JP Amrit Mahotsava Committee, presented Jayaprakash Narayan a purse containing Rs. 90 lakhs, contributed from all over the country to mark the end of the year long celebration of his 75 birthday. An unruly mob of students and youth threw stones and chappals at the dais where the presentation ceremony was arranged.

— Bill Brask of USA won the Indian Open Golf Championship with a four round aggregate of eight under par 284 at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club courts.

— First-ever non-Congress Ministry in Assam was installed in Gauhati when Chief Minister Golap Borbora, his nine Cabinet Colleagues, two Ministers of State and five Parliamentary secretaries took oath of office.

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**March** 12 Yogendra Makwana was appointed Deputy Chief Whip of the Congress (I) in the Rajya Sabha.

13 Agriculture and Irrigation Minister, Surjit Singh Barnala, told the Lok Sabha in a written reply that the World Bank has provided $ 341 million for five irrigation projects under construction. The projects are Periyar-Vaigai in Tamil Nadu, Jayakwadi in Maharashtra, Orissa medium project and Nagarjunasagar and Godavari barrage in Andhra Pradesh.

— Home Minister Charan Singh informed the Lok Sabha that the Shah Commission has submitted its first interim report to the government. Similar statement was made in the Rajya Sabha by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Dhanik Lal Mandal.

15 One gangman was killed and 11 other persons were injured, four of them seriously, when the engine and the adjoining seven bogies of the 131-up Delhi bound Jayanti-Janta Express derailed at a spot about three km from Nagpur.

— Veteran CPI leader and trade unionist, Shakir Ali Khan, 76, died.

— Vice-President of North Korea, Kang Ryang Uk arrived in New Delhi on a six day official visit to India. He was accompanied by the Finance Minister, the Deputy Foreign Minister, and officials from the North Korean Ministry of Foreign Trade.

16 At the end of the four-day meeting, the joint committee set up by India and Britain, the Commerce Minister of India, Mohan Dharia and the leader of the British team, Edmund Dell signed an agreement to give a boost to Indo-British economic cooperation.

— Kumar Ram Pratap Singh, Ambassador to Iran, has been appointed Ambassador to Austria in succesion to Amrik Singh Mehta.

— Maniamma, President of the Dravida Kazhagam and widow of E.V. Ramaswami Naicker, died.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai released the Poet Nanalal commemorative postage stamp at a function in New Delhi.

— Ram Krishna Mahato, a Congress member of West Bengal Assembly, died of jaundice in a Calcutta hospital.

— U.N. Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim announced that C.V. Narasimhan has been appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations World Conference to combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

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**March** 17 Congress (I) President, Indira Gandhi appointed A.R. Anthulay, as General Secretary of the party.

— India and Nepal signed two separate treaties on trade and transit. They also signed an agreement on cooperation to control unauthorised trade. These documents replaced the 1971 Indo-Nepal Treaty of trade and transit.

— A tornado which lasted only five minutes devastated the Delhi University campus and adjoining areas, killing 30 people and injuring more than 800 people. One of the transmitters of the All India Radio also was knocked down causing a breakdown of medium wave transmission over Delhi 'B', 'C' and 'D' stations of AIR. A relief of Rs. 2,500 to the next of kin of the dead was announced by the Chief Executive Councillor, K.N. Sahni.

18 Four members were declared elected unopposed in the biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha from the Karnataka Assembly. They are Ramakrishna Hegde, General Secretary of Janata Party and three Congress (I) nominees, Masood Ali Khan, H.R. Basavaraj and Sachindanand. From Tamil Nadu Assembly members elected unopposed in the biennial elections are Era Sezhian (Janata), Sathavani Muthu, V. Venga and V.V. Swaminathan (AI-ADMK), V. Gopoalsami (DMK) and M. Moses (Congress I).

— Sixteen persons were drowned following launch disaster in the Ganga near the Diamond harbour jetty, about 65-km from Calcutta.

— A two-day national convention of the Indian Editors Guild began to draw up its constitution. On 19th March a 16 member executive committee with S. Malgaokar as president was formed.

— National Development Council (NDC) began its two-day sitting in New Delhi. Dr. D.T.Lakdawala, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, told the Council that the plan would have three basic objectives: elimination of unemployment in the next 10 years, significant increase in the living standards of the people below the poverty line and provision of a large number of public goods and services to the masses with a distinctively rural bias. He added that the Sixth Five Year Plan will have a total outlay of Rs. 1,16, 240 crores of which the public sector would account for Rs. 69,380 crores. He said that the plan envisages a growth rate of 4.7 per cent and it is expected that a potential for 5.5 per cent growth would be built by the end of the plan period. On 19th March the two day session of the NDC ended approving the principal objective and broad strategy outlining the draft Five Year Plan for 1978-83 prepared by the Planning Commission.

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**March 18** Ram Jethmalani, a Janata party member of Parliament, was elected Chairman of the Bar Council of India.

— M. Anantasyanam Iyengar, former Governor of Bihar and former Lok Sabha Speaker, died at Tirupati. Mr. Iyengar was imprisoned twice during the freedom struggle. He was elected to Central Legislative Assembly in 1934 and later to Lok Sabha in 1962. Till recently he was Chairman of Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth.

— Mangal Singh (Services) had the distinction of picking up the first gold medal in the 90 kg division on the penultimate day of the Greco-Roman style National Wrestling Championship held in Karnal.

20 Lt. Gen. K.V. Krishna Rao took over as the Deputy Chief of the Army Staff at Army Headquarters in New Delhi. Gen. Rao was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 1971.

— The Services retained the National Greco-Roman Wrestling title winning six of the ten gold medals and a silver on the concluding day of the championship held in Karnal.

— A special five-judge bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court unanimously held Bansi Lal, former Defence Minister and H.R. Bhardwaj, an advocate of Delhi, guilty under Section 12 of the Contempt of Courts Act.

21 Assam Ministry was expanded. The four Ministers who were sworn-in were Sonaram Thwosend, Ramesh Mohan Kouli (cabinet rank) and Ramani Burman and Gandhi Ram Timung (Ministers of State).

— Lok Sabha passed the bill for demonetisation of high currency notes. Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 23rd March.

— Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, inaugurated the J. N. Tata Memorial centre at Navsari in Surat.

22 G.G. Mirchandani took over as Editor and General Manager of the United News of India which will resume operation from 14th April.

— Japan committed another 9.7 billion yen (Rs. 34.6 crores) to India for Nagarjunasagar project in Andhra Pradesh (8.4 billion yen) and Jaikwadi power project in Maharashtra (1.3 billion yen) taking total assistance to India during 1977-78 to 29.7 billion yen (Rs. 106.07 crores), on the basis of the pledge at the India consortium meeting held in July 1977.

— I.C. Agarwal, OSD in the Union Shipping and Transport Ministry has been appointed Chief Commissioner of the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

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March 22 Law Commission presented its 66th report to the Rajya Sabha. In its report the Commission suggested revision of the Married Women's Property Act of 1874 keeping in view the changed social conditions and enhanced status of women.

— Talks on demarcation of maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh were resumed at New Delhi after three years. The two sides were led by Jagat Mehta and Mohammad Siddiquer Rehaman respectively on 24th March. At the end of 3 days, the talks remained inconclusive.

— Lok Sabha passed the Public Sector Iron and Steel Companies (Restructuring) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill piloted by the Steel Minister, Biju Patnaik. The Bill seeks to bring public sector steel plants under the overall control of an integral company, while all activities which are not directly related to steel production are kept outside its purview.

— Lok Sabha passed without a discussion the Port Laws (Amendment) Bill which among other things provides for the merger of the old Tuticorin port with the new one. The Bill has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

— Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die.

— Ram Niwas Mirdha, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha announced that the Chairman, B.D. Jatti, has decided that conseqent upon the Congress-I having gained in numerical strength over the Congress, Bhola Paswan Shastri, has ceased to be leader of the Opposition and Kamlapati Tripathi, leader of the Congress-I has been recognised in that place.

— Union Government accepted the finding of the Shah Commission in all the major cases of emergency excesses contained in its interim report submitted to the Home Minister on 13th March. The interim report has held former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, guilty in as many as 11 cases of gross misuse of power, including the imposition of internal Cabinet. In its report the Commission has also severally criticised the conduct of former Information and Broadcasting Minister V.C. Shukla in misusing the mass media.

— Union Home Minister Charan Singh announced in the Lok Sabha the Government's decision to withdraw the controversial Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill incorporating some of the dreaded features of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

24 India was elected Chairman of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) permanent committee for development cooperation related to copyright and neighbouring rights. The WIPO, a U.N. specialised agency, has a

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permanent programme to assist developing countries in copying and allied matters.

March 24 — Lt. General O.P. Malhotra, Vice-Chief of the Army Staff has been appointed the next Chief of the Army Staff. He is to succeed the present Chief of Army Staff Gen. T.N. Raina. He took charge on Ist June.

— Rajmata Vallabh Kumari, junior Maharani of the late Maharaja Gulab Singh, died in Rewa. She was 68.

— A Sikh religious leader, Sant Kultar Singh of Dera Baba Karam Singh Sahib, passed away in New Delhi.

25 Guntur Bapanayya, Marxist member of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, died. He was 58.

— Shyama Prasad Singh, a former chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council, and a Congress leader died. He was 84.

26 A 14-member South Korean parliamentary delegation led by Il Kwon Chung arrived in New Delhi on a 5-day visit to India.

— King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan accompanied by his Finance and Foreign Relations Minister arrived in New Delhi on a four-day official visit. A banquet hosted by the President N. Sanjiva Reddy was given in his honour. On 28th March, the Energy Minister P. Ramachandran offered to King of Bhutan India's all help in exploitation of its large water and power resources. The Industries Minister George Fernandes offered the King to assist Bhutan in setting up industries based on raw materials available in that country. On 29th March at the conclusion of King's visit, a statement was issued. The statement said that an arrangement has been agreed upon, which will enable Bhutan to sell directly to third countries its exportable surpluses.

— The President presented the 'Sangeet Natak Akademi' award for 1977 to 15 artists at Rabindra Bhavan in Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi. The award winners were: MUSIC-Mrs. Girija Devi (Hindustani, vocal), Asal Ali Khan (Hindustani-instrumental), Sripada Pinakapan (Karnataka-vocal), S. Baalchander (Karnataka-instrumental) and Lakshman Prasad Chaube (Haveli Sangeet), DANCE—Sankaran Nair (Krishnattam), Debaprasad Das (Odissi) Miss Yamini Krishnamurthy (Bharata Natyam) and Mrs. Nayana Jhaveri (Manipuri), DRAMA-Lakshminarain Lal (Playwriting-Hindi), Rajindra Nath (direction), Mrs. Krishna Roy (Acting-Bengal), B. Veerbhadra Naik (Yakshagana) and V. Ramamurthy (stage lighting).

— Umanath G. Puthli, freedom fighter, died. He was 76.

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Mr. Puthli was the founder-member of the Yusuf Meherally centre and was responsible for the rural development programme in Kulaba district.

27 Gian Prakash was sworn-in by the President as Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

— The Government appointed an expert committee, headed by the cabinet secretary, to examine the Shah Commission's first report and recommend follow-up action.

— Janata party won 15 of the 33 Rajaya Sabha seats from nine states. Congress (I) got seven seats and the Akali Dal, the CPM and the Republican Party got one each. In West Bengal, the Left Front won all the five seats, in Maharashtra S.K. Patil was defeated while Piloo Modi was elected from Gujarat. State-wise break up of result was : Maharashtra-Janata 3. Congress and Congress (I) 2 each, Orissa-Janata 4, Andhra Pradesh-Janata 2, Congress (I) 4, Assam Janata 2, Congress (I), Gujarat-Janata 3, Congress (I) 1, Punjab-CPM 1, Akali Dal 1, Himachal Pradesh Janata 1, and West Bengal-Left Front-5.

— Kunwar Digvijay Singh "Babu" India's hockey ace, shot himself dead at his Lucknow residence.

28 All the nine Janata Party candidates along with one each of the Congress and Congress (I) nominees were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha in the biennial elections from Uttar Pradesh Assembly. Among the winners were Kamlapati Tripathi and K.C. Pant. From Rajasthan Assembly, two Janata party candidates, one independent were declared elected.

— The Commander-in-Chief of the USSR Air Force, Air Marshal P.S.Koutakhov, arrived in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India.

— Nivarthi Venkata Subbiah, 70, Chairman of the Andhra Legislative Council, died.

— Thomas Abraham, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, was appointed High Commissioner to Sri Lanka in succession to Gurbachan Singh.

29 B.P. Sinha, President of the Rashtriya Colliery Mazdoor Sangh (affiliated to INTUC) was shot dead.

— H.N. Bahuguna, Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals, announced in Parliament the new drug policy which envisages the acquisition of 39.6 per cent of the shares of several foreign

— drug companies by public financial institutions.

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**March 29** Holders India bowed out of the World Cup hockey when they were held to a 1-1 draw by a make-shift England side in their group 'A' match played in Buenos Aires.

— Janata party annexed five seats and the Congress (I) and CPI one seat each in the biennial election to the Rajya Sabha from the Bihar constituency. From Meghalaya Assembly candidate from the ruling United Legislative party was declared elected.

— Malaysia's Foreign Minister, Tengku Datuk Ahmad Rithuddin arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India. Mr. Rithuddin and the Indian Education Minister Dr. P.C. Chunder signed a cultural agreement on 31st March, the first between the two countries. A joint communique was issued at the end of Mr. Rithuddin's visit. The communique expressed complete identity of views on the struggle of the poeple of Southern Africa against racial discrimination and colonialism, of the nationalists of Zimbabawe and the people of Namibia for complete independence.

— The Maldivian Government signed a £ 10.7 million contract with the International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) for major improvements to the Hulule international airport.

**30** Five minors were killed and seven others seriously injured when a portion of a roof in a gallery junction at Tara colliery, about 15 km from Asansol caved in.

**31** Industry Minister, George Fernandes announced in the Lok Sabha that the exemption limit for industrial licensing is being raised from the present level of Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 crores.

— M.A. Ramaswamy of India was elected vice-president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the first time unseating another Indian, Ashwani Kumar.

**April 1** The President of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), Sam Nujoma arrived in New Delhi.

— The tenth Congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) began at Jullundur. The Congress concluded on 8th April.

**2** About 12 shops in a four-storey private shopping centre on Gurdwara road in Karol Bagh (New Delhi) were gutted in a big fire.

— India got sixth position in the World Cup hockey when it was defeated by Spain 2-0 in Buenos Aires.

**3** Aboud Jumbe, Vice President of Tanzania arrived in New Delhi on a visit to India. A joint communique was issued at the end of the Tanzanian Vice-President's visit on 11th April. The communique condemned the 'internal settlement' reached by

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the illegal white minority regime of Ian Smith in Zimbabawe. Both the countries pledged their full support for and solidarity with the people of Zimbabawe and the patriotic Front which had been in the forefront of the liberation struggle.

**April 3** Hriday Nath Kunzru, former MP and senior member of the Constituent Assembly died at the age of 91. He worked for the political awakening of the country with Gopalkrishna Gokhale and Madan Mohan Malviya.

— Maulana Zubair Quraishi, a prominent social worker of Delhi died at the age of 74. Mr. Quraishi was a popular religious leader. He was a Municipal Commissioner in Delhi for sometime. He was also founder of Delhi Football Association.

— The opposition-sponsored Hyderabad Bandh turned violent and police were forced to open fire 11 times in different localities resulting in nine deaths and injuries to 80. Army was called and 36 hour curfew imposed.

— The Union Commerce Minister, Mohan Dharia announced the import-export policy for 1978-79 in Lok Sabha. It seeks to simplify and decentralise licensing procedures and envisages "calculated liberalisation" of imports to subserve national priorities in terms of creation of employment of opportunities, expansion of Small Scale Sector and attainment of self reliance.

**4** A.C.S. Hameed, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, arrived in New Delhi on a six-day official visit to India. During their talks, A.C.S. Hameed and the Indian Foreign Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee agreed that there should be no dilution of the principle of non-alignment nor any deviation towards any extremist position. Both the Foreign Ministers viewed that the forthcoming meeting of the non-aligned coordinating Bureau at Kabul must focus on disarmanent for which non-aligned countries had taken the initiative by convening the special session of the U.N. General Assembly.

— The Agricultural Prices Commission, released its report. The report recommends that the procurement prices for all varieties of wheat for the current rabi should be maintained at Rs 110 a quintal. It also recommends that considering the likely size of the current crop which might be more than 30 million tonnes, the public sector agencies should be geared to undertake support purchase of six million tonnes of wheat.

— A commemorative postage stamp was released by the Government of India, in honour of a great Belgian artist and humanist, Peter Paul Rubens on the occasion of his four hundredth birth anniversary.

— Six members of Lok Sabha joined Congress (I) raising its

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strength to 68 in the House. The members are M.R. Manoranjan Bhakta, Somjibhai Damor, Tarun Gogoi, K. Obul Reddy, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil and N.H. Laskar.

**April 4** Two days meeting of the Janata Parliamentary Board on its concluding day decided to make a determined effort to jointly meet the many threats faced by the party and the country, not the least among them being the slow revival of Mrs. Gandhi's personality cult.

— The various party position after the Rajya Sabha biennial elections which were over on 3rd April was as follows: Janata 69, Congress (I) 60, Congress 53, CPI 9, AI-ADMK 9, CPI (M) 8, DMK 3, Muslim League 2, PWP, Kerala Muslim League, Akali Dal, Forward Bloc, RSP, ULP one each, Independents 12 and Nominated 8. Party affiliations of 5 members were not known.

**5** Janata Party decided to set up a committee of seven in Bihar including party MLAS from Bihar, representatives of the central party and the Union Law Minister to suggest the manner in which the Janata Party manifesto concerning reservation of jobs for backward classes be implemented. The decision to set up this committee was taken after a prolonged discussion by the party leadership.

**6** Amarrao Mahadik of Shiv Sena was declared elected Mayor of the Bombay Municipal Corporation for 1978-79 defeating his nearest Congress rival Manmohan Singh Bedi by a margin of 14 votes.

— The Chief Minister of Haryana administered the oath of office to six Parliamentary Secretaries raising the strength of his Council of Ministers from 11 to 17. They were Sardar Khan, Bhagmal Lal Singh, Bhole Ram and Mool Chand Mangla.

— The International Association, an affiliate of the World Bank, announced the approval of a credit of $ 126 million, (over Rs. 100 crores) to help finance construction of irrigation works and command area development in Karnataka.

— Karnataka wrapped up the Ranji Trophy final by an innings and 193 run lead. The match was held at Mohan Nagar in U.P.

— A Nepalese delegation led by D.R. Koirala, arrived in New Delhi to negotiate an agreement under which India will provide funds for renovation and extension of Chandra Canal, Kosi distribution system and pump canal for providing perennial irrigation facilities to 34,700 hectares in the Terai region of Nepal and an agreement to this effect was signed on 7th April.

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April 6 The Shah Commission has filed a complaint under Sections 178 and 179 IPC against Dhirendra Brahmachari in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate for his refusal to take oath and answer questions to the Commission when he appeared before it in response to summons.

7 25th National awards for films were announced. Dada Saheb Phalke Award for 1977 for outstanding contribution to Indian cinema was announced for Nitin Bose, an 80 year-old man of Hindi and Bengali films. "Ghatasharadha", a Kannada feature film won the Golden Lotus for the best feature film for 1977 and Satyajit Ray's "Shatranj Ke Khilari" won a double award for the best feature film in Hindi and for the best cinematography (colour) for which Somendu Roy got the award. Swami (Hindi) was adjudged the best feature film. Best Actor and Best actress awards were announced for Gopi in "Kodiyettam" (Malyalam) and Smita Patil in 'Bhumika' (Hindi) respectively. The awards were presented by the President on 27th April.

— Delhi Corporation elected R. K. Gupta and Maulana Imdad Sabri as Mayor and Deputy Mayor for a second term.

— N. Sivasankara Menon, founder Secretary of the International Centre for Kathakali, died in Delhi. He was 61.

8 Ambady Krishnan, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, was appointed Ambassador to Italy in succession to Kizhakepat Rukmini Menon.

— Meeting of the Congress Working Committee was held in New Delhi. It pleaded for immediate enactment of the anti-defection Bill to maintain the democratic health of the nation.

— Vishnu Kalyandas Ahuja. Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, was appointed Ambassador to Iran in succession to Ram Pratap Singh.

9 A. Sambasiva Rao, Senior judge, was sworn-in as the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

— Ramdas Aggarwal, a freedom fighter and former member of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, died in Jabalpur. He was 87.

— Robert Claudius, Indian Hockey player, died in a scooter accident in Calcutta.

— S.A. Dange and Rajeshware were re-elected as Chairman and Secretary repectively of the Communist Party of India by its National Council at Bhatinda. The Party opened its 11th Congress on 31st March in Bhatinda.

10 Agha Shahi, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Government of

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Pakistan arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit to discuss further improvement in relations between India and Pakistan. External Affairs Minister received him. On 12th April Agha Shahi announced at news confernce that an agreement has been reached on the Salal hydro-eletric project, being built by India in the upper reaches of the Chenab. On 14th April Agha Shahi and Atal Behari Vajpayee signed the agreement on the design and construction of the Salal hydro-electric project.

10 Dr. Abdul Rahim Nevin, Afghan Minister for Information and Culture arrived in New Delhi on a nine-day official visit to India. On 18th the visiting Afghan Minister and the Indian Education Minister, Dr. P.C. Chunder signed a cultural exchange programme under which cooperation between the two countries in the field of information, culture and sports was envisaged.

— A five-member delegation from the Supreme Soviet, headed by Alexie Pavlovich Shitikov, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR arrived in New Delhi on a seven-day visit to India.

— The President's rule in Mizoram was extended for a further period of two months from 11th April. The President's rule was imposed in the Union Territory on 11th May, 1977 and later extended on 11th December, 1977 for a four month period.

— Ram Murti Rastogi, Emergency Excesses Inquiry Authority appointed by the Madhya Pradesh State Government, forwarded to the Shah Commission its reports on the ill-treatment of MISA detenue, which took place in Rewa jail on 18th September, 1978.

— The tripartie agreement between India, Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia extended for a further period of five years from 1st April. Letters to this effect were exchanged at New Delhi between Minister of State for Commerce, Arif Beg and the Ambassadors of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in India.

— The Union Education Minister, Dr. P.C. Chunder making a statement told the Lok Sabha that the Independence Silver Jubilee time capsule buried at the Red Fort and now retrieved contains "insipid, unbalanced" account of the History of India from 1947 to 1972. He said that there was no mention in the 10,000 word account of the history of India since 1947 about the freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi did not find a place anywhere except in one sentence that "it was led since 1920 by Mahatma Gandhi who believed in non-violence". The author has shown little grasp of the Constitution and has summarised in its complete disregard of the sanctity of facts. There was one-sided version of political parties

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besides in-accuracies and partisan assessment made in the document of the political and economic situation prevailing between 1947 and 1972. Dr. Chunder also laid on the table of the House the report of Committee of MPs which supervised the retrieval of the capsule.

**April 10** The Union Government decided to grant citizenship rights to the 45,000 refugees who had crossed into India from Pakistan during the 1971 war. Most of these refugees came to Rajasthan from areas occupied by the Indian army.

**11** The Janata Parliamentary Party Executive met at the Prime Minister's House for more than two hours. Perturbed by the growing indiscipline in the Parliamentary Party, the leadership accepted a code of conduct for its members.

— The Tarkunde Committee on Electoral expenses set up by the Executive Council of Citizens for Democracy on the advice of Jayaprakash Narayan released its report at a news conference in New Delhi. It recommended that facilities should be made available at Government expense to every candidate in Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, so that contestants with modest means do not suffer against richer candidates. The Committee has also recommended substantial increase in the ceiling on e'ection expenses and rise in security deposits on the question of making it compulsory for voters to cost their votes, the committee felt that "compliance with the duty to cast one's vote should be brought about with persuasion and political education rather than compulsion." The Committee opined that six copies of the relevant electoral roll should be supplied to each candidate free of charge. It also recommended that the candidate should be given facilities only for one constituency even if they contested from more that one. Facilities should be provided from central revenues for Lok Sabha and from State revenues for Assembly Elections.

— The Union Cabinet decided to increase the wheat procurement price from Rs. 110 to Rs. 112.50 per quintal.

— The World Bank agreed to provide financial assistance of Rs. 1.70 crore to Haryana for development of its Water Supply and Irrigation Schemes.

**12** The Home Minister Charan Singh placed on the table of the Lok Sabha a copy of the Baweja Commission report appointed on 15th October, 1970, which enquired into the alleged lathi charge on political prisoners in ward 15 of Tihar jail on the night of 2nd October, 1970. The Commission held that a charge was made with fists, blows, kicks, leather belts and some lathis and batons by the wardens and convict officials (called Numberdars), on the prisoners resulting in injuries to 156 persons, a few being serious. The Commission said that

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the prisoners were protesting mainly over overcrowding in that ward, its unhygenic and unsanitary conditions etc. The Commission held that the situation could easily have been controlled by a wise and tactful jail officer without resort to use of force. The Home Minister announced that the government has accepted the report.

**April 12** The Speaker, K. S. Hegde announced in the Lok Sabha that he has recognised the Congress (I) as the main opposition and its leader, C.M. Stephen as the leader of the opposition in place of Y.B. Chavan, leader of the Congress.

**13** 10 persons were killed and many iniured in firing on the Pantnagar Agricultural University. The police opened fire when the agitating employees took out a procession in definace of prohibitory orders and turned violent. On 14th April the situation at Pantnagar University took a serious turn with the students jumping into the fray on behalf of the striking employees. They gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor, the District Magistrate and demanded the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor and withdrawal of the entire police force. The employees had the agitation in support of their 14 demands which included enforcement of the Minimum Wages Aet, confirmation of those who had put in three years of service and payment of bonus and overtime. On 15th April the Chief Minister of UP, Ram Naresh Yadav, ordered a judicial inquiry into the firing. He also announced ex-gratia payment of Rs. 5,000, each to the families of those killed and Rs. 2,500 eaeh to those injured and on 18th April Vice-Chancellor of Pantnagar University, D.P. Singh, resigned.

— 17 persons were killed and over 100 injured, some seriously, in an armed clash between Nihang Sikhs and the Nirankaris at Amritsar where the Nirankaris were holding the Many Ekta Sammelan. The followers of Baba Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala, a Sikh Saint had earlier taken exception to the Nirankari Guru, Baba Gurbachan Singh whom they regarded as a fake and declared that they would not allow the conference to be held.

— The Constitution (43rd Amendment) Act became law on receiving the assent of the President .

— The former Union Information Minister, V.C. Shukla, declined to participate further in the Shah Commission proceedings after his plea for adjournment of hearing of cases involving him is rejected by Justice J.C. Shah.

— India and West Germany signed an agreement in New Delhi under which India get a commodity loan of Rs. 28 crores (DM 70 million) from West Germany for the year 1978-79. The loan will be used principally for the import of industrial equipment spare parts and accessories as also utter semi-manu-

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factures required by the Indian industry.

April 13 Strength of the Meghalaya Ministry was raised to 13, as Rowell Lyngdoh of the Hill State Peoples' Democratic Party (HSPDP) was sworn-in as Minister.

14 The death toll in clashes between Nirankaris and Nihang Akalis at Amritsar on 13th April mounted to 11. The Chief Minister, Prakash Singh Badal after meeting representatives of various groups and visiting the injured in the hospitals, told newsmen that a judicial inquiry will be held into the incident.

— The India Embassy in Manial completely gutted in a fire which broke out in the six-storey building in which it was located. Members of the Embassy were reported safe, but the fire destroyed several documents and other belongings.

— The President nominated Dr. Malcolm Adisseshiah Pandurang Dharmaji Jadhav, Fatemah Imail and Bhagwati Charan Varma as members of the Rajya Sabha.

15 Bihar, reigning champions in the men's section, returned the title with 41 points and am impressive tally of seven golds and two silvers in the 33rd Xational Cycling Championship held in Trivandrum.

— The Nepalese Prime Minister, Kirti Nidhi Bista arrived in New Delhi on a 11-day visit to India, to seek Indian economic and technical assistance to foster industries in Nepal. During his discussions with the Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, he sought India's cooperation in industrial development of Nepal and Morarji Desai assured him of sympathetic consideration in the matter. During his talks with the External Affairs Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Nepalese Premier said that his country would like better trade transit facilities on Indian railways. At the banquet given in honour of Kirti Nidhi Bista, both the Prime Ministers expressed that an atmosphere of mutual—understanding and trust has developed between them and it would help consolidate and stability in the sub-continent. On 17th April a joint communique was issued at the conclusion of talks between the visiting Nepalese Premier and Indian Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, Both agreed for joint ventures to exploit the natural resources of the Himalayan region. India agreed to provide market access in India to the goods produced by the joint ventures. The communique also said that there was a review of the progress of various projects to harness the river potential of the Nepal rivers and expressed the hope that agreement would be signed soon on Rs. 30-crore Devighat project for which India has offered assistance, Nepalese Prime Minister returned back to Nepal on 25th April,

— Twelve people were killed, six on the spot, when a lorry

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carrying about 50 labourers overturned near Holenarasipur.

**April 16** The 143-KMPH squall, accompanied by heavy rain, killed seven persons and injured 10 seriously in West Bengal.

— A big fire swept through the Azadpur timber market in North Delhi, destroying all about one of the 50 shops in the area. There was no loss of life.

— About 150 persons were feared killed and several hundreds injured in a cyclone lasted less than ten minutes which swept five villages in Orissa. All the houses in the villages inhabited by over 700 families were completely destroyed. On 17th April it was reported that the tornado toll mounted to about 500 persons.

— A.K. Hafizka, a former President of Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee, was appointed Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

— Education Minister, P.C. Chunder, inaugurated the Blue cross Rover Crew, an affiliate of the boy scouts, whose volunteers are expected to help in the proper distribution of essential commodities the market price.

— Industrial Development Bank of India and State Bank of India sanctioned a credit of Rs. 30 crores to the Bank for Foreign trade of the socialist Republic of Vietnam to finance the purchase of railway equipment by the Vietnamese railways from the projects and Equipment Corporation of Indin Ltd.

— K.T. Sule, 76, Marxist trade union leader, died. Mr. Sule Vice-president of the Maharashtra Unit of the CITU and President of the All-India Reserve Bank Employees Federation, was one of the pioneers in fixing the principle of minium wages. He fought the Bombay textile workers' case about wage structure in the industrial court in 1946.

— A soft-term loan for financing an ambitious Rs. 20 crore programmes for manufacture of fruit prodncts (Juice and Jams) in Jammu and Kashmir haa been agreed to by the World Bank. Two major factories at Baramulla and Sopore are being set up.

**17** Prime Minister Morarji Desai has been unanimously elected as Acharya (Chancellor) of Visva-Bharati University. Mr. Desai was elected as the Acharya for a three year term.

**18** Eleven people died, most of them women passengers as the Bombay-Ahmedabad Janata Express rammed the rear bogie of a Virar-bound Suburban train outside Bassein Road Station on the Western Railway. According to reports received on 19th April the death toll was 30.

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April 18 — Gaj Singh, son of the late Maharaja Hanwant Singh of Jodhpur was appointed High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago.

— India and Afghanistan signed a cultural exchange programme for 1978. It envisages cooperation in education, information, culture and sports.

— Mrs. Indira Gandhi, appearing in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Delhi, P.K. Jain, where cases have been brought against her, said that she was not guilty of offences punishable under sections 178 and 179 IPC for refusing to testify on oath before the Shah Commission on 11th January.

— The President appointed Justice T. Ramaprasada Rao, as the Chief Justice of the Madras high Court from 17th April.

— Sir Sobha Singh. builder of Modern New Delhi, died at the age of 90.

— Strength of the Nagaland Ministry was raised to 15 with the addition of three more Ministers. They were Shurku Elie (Cabinet), Lhiweshel Mero and Yepikyu, both Ministers of State. Three Ministers of State got Cabinet rank-Vngkum, Noke and Sentrich Ba.

— The Syrian President Hafez Al-Asad arrived in New Delhi on a siv-day goodwill mission to India. On 22nd April. at the end of the Syrian Presipent's visit, a joined communique was issued. The Communique stressed the continuning validity of the policy of non-alignment and expressed satisfaction at the growing success and effectiveness of the movement.

19 — Former national badminton champion and international star, Suresh Goel, died in Varanasi. He was 35.

— Sookamal Kanti Ghosh, editor of the "Jugantar" and a prominent figure in the cultural life of Calcutta died. He was 66.

— Swami Krishnanand, a freedom fighter, died in Sagar.

— Switzerland converted loans amounting to Rs. 34 crores to India into outright grants. Sweden had earlier written off about 96 crores of debt assistance given by her to India.

— The World Bank and the International Development Association offered $ 305 million for thermal power development programmes in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

20 — India and Belgium signed a trade pact.

— India and Syria signed a trade agreement to step up trade re-

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lating to air services and to remove the imbalance between the two countries.

**April 20** India handed over to Sri Lanka sacred relics of Lord Buddha obtained from Kapilvastu, the land of his birth for a six-week exposition in that country as a token of faith shared by two countries for nearly 2000 years as brethren.

— Justice Vishwanatha Iyer of the Kerala High Court, a one-man commission of inquiry to go into the cases of disapperance of certain persons from Kerala after their alleged arrest during the emergency, submitted his report to the Government.

**21** Mrs. Rukmini Menon, Ambassador of India to Italy, has been appointed High Commissioner to Nigeria in succession to Avtar Singh.

— Northern Railway retained the Inter Railway Cricket title.

**22** External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee left for New York to attend the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Namibia.

— Four women and three men, died on the spot and eight others received injuries in a quarry accident at Suket village about 60 km from Kota.

— India and Iran agreed to set up a Chair for Sanskrit language in Tehran Uuiversity and a brisk barter of information in science. education and mass media.

— Kamalapatti Tripathi was again recognised as leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha from 18th April following his re-election to the House. He ceased this post on 3rd April following the end of the term of his membership.

— The President appointed, Dr. Hari Narain, Director of the National Geophysical Laboratory, Hyderabad as Vice-Chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University.

— The Reserve Bank of India announced 3rd May as India's first-ever official gold auction date. The auction was on the basis of sealed tenders received from the licensed dealers who are entitled to deal in gold under the Gold Control Act of 1965.

**23** All India Kannada Literary Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Morarji Desai.

— EME Jullunder lifted the Bombay Hockey Gold Cup beating another Jullunder team, Punjab Police, by the aggregate of

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three goals to two.

**April 23** Government accepted Verghese Committee report on All India Radio and Doordarshan in order to enhance their credibility and independence.

— Renu Grey, popular Hindi novelist who wrote under the name of 'Ranu' died in Allahabad 'Ranu' in his mid-forties was one of the leading paper-back novel writers.

**24** Five people were killed and four seriously injured when a light engine collided with a goods train between Bachwara and Teghra stations of the North Eastern Railway, about 16 km from Barauni.

— The Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation Constiiuted a six member committee to report on the third level air transport operations after considering the various alternatives and to suggest whether it should be undertaken by Indian Airlines or by its Subsidiary or by a Public Sector or Joint Public Sector Corporation of Centre and State Government concerned.

— Sarvadanand, noted Hindi novelist and dramatist and the only son of former Chief Minister. Dr. Sampurnanand died, He was 63.

**25** The Government introduced a scheme of rupee finance to cover the import of capital goods. The ruppees equivalent of the foreign exchange cost of imported capital goods will be eligible for assistance under the scheme obtainable from the Scheduled Commercial bank or all-India public financial institutions at the rates specified by the bank.

— The World Bank announced aid of Rs. 5 crores to India for the newly formed Rural Development Corps known as Gram "Vikas Vahini" to complete the multi-faceted rural development programme.

**26** Mrs. Ashapurna Devi, received the Jnanpith award from the President for her Bengal novel "Pratham Pratishruti '.

— V.N. Gadgil, member of the Rajya Sabha and Secretary of the Pune city district Congress Committee, joined the Congress (I)

— The World Bank agreed to give financial assistance amounting to Rs. 200 crores for drinking water supply schemes in Rajasthan.

**27** Avtar Singh, Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria was appointed Ambassador to Japan succeeding Eric Gonsalves.

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**April 27** Lok Sabha passed the Appropriation Bill of Rs. 36533 crores for meeting the expenditure budgeted by the Union Ministries and its departments for the current year. The Bill covered Rs. 15,700 crores voted by Patliament and Rs. 20,853 crores charged an the consolidated Fund,

— The Planning Commission set up a high level committee headed by the former cabinet secretary, B.D. Pande, to formulate an integrated and comprehensive national transport policy to meet the new plan priorities set out in the five year plan. 1978-83.

— The Shah Commission submitted its second interim report to to the Union Government.

— Thomas Abraham, Indian Commissioner designate to Sri Lanka, was concurrently accredited as Indian Ambassador to Maldives with residence at Colombo.

**28** Amiya Nath Bose, senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India, was appointed Ambassador to Burma in succession to Nedungottas Philip Alexander.

— India and Italy signed in New Delhi an agreement for cooperation in science and technology. The agreement provides for the setting up of a joint commitiee for science and technology which would formulate joint programmes for science and technology research. It also provided exchange of scientists and scientific information.

**29** 73 detainees were exchanged between India and Pakistan at Wagah barrier. Some of them were kept in jahls since the 1971 Indo-Pakistan conflict. India handed over 39 Pakistani nationals, whereas Pakistan returned 34 Indians detained there.

— The ban on remittances of foreign exchange from India to China was lifted and monetary transactions with persons, firms and banks in China was permitted. The relaxation has been effected to facilitate short term remittance to finance bilateral trade following the resumption of trade link between India and China.

— Bradford Morse, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India.

— India and United Arab Emirates signed a cultural exchange programme envisaging cooperation between the two countries in education, sports, youth activity, press, radio and television.

— The Union Home Minister, Charan Singh, in a letter the

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Janata Party President, Chandra Shekhar, tendered his resignation from the Party's National Executive and Parliamentary Board, Charging the high command with encouraging dissension in the party in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere.

**April 29** V.C.A. Padmanabhan, general manager of Eastern Railway, has been appointed member (Engineering), Railway Board Secretary to the Government of India (Ex-officio).

**30** K.Pattaswamy, a prominent Janata MLA, died after a heart attack at Mysore. He represented Chamaraja constituency in Mysore city. A member of the State Assembly since 1960, he was a Minister in the Nijalingappa and Veerandra Patil cabinets. He resigned from the Congress last year to join CFD, which later merged into Janata Party.

— A mosque, about 30 houses, 12 grain stores, eight cowsheds and 2 shops were destroyed in a fire at Waripura, about 30 km from Srinagar.

— Diana Eduljee, (Bombay) won the inaugural all-India Women's single wicket cricket tournament, beating Sudha Shah (Tamil Nadu) by three runs in the final played in Calcutta.

— Pratap Singh, a Janata party leader, was shot dead at Jalalpur village. A former Jana Sangh member he was alleged to have forcibly prevented harijans from voting in previous elections.

**May 1** Jabalpur was linked with Delhi by the direct train service, Kutub express.

— Maj. Gen. Mathew Thomas took over as the new Director-General of the National Cadet Corps. He succeeded Maj. Gen. H. K. Bakshi.

— India recognised the Afghan regime headed by Communist leader, Nur mohammed Taraky. Recognition came to the new Government within 24 hours of a request conveyed by it through the Indian Ambassador in the Kabul. India's action means recognition of the first successful post-war communist coup in any part of the world.

— A fire destroyed the District and Sessions Judge court in Allahabad. 13 court rooms, library for lower court judges containing rare books were destroyed in the fire. Among the records destroyed were some dating back to the time of Aurengzeb.

— Ashok K. Ghosh was elected President at the annual conference of the Federation of Indtan Publishers.

— Lt Gen. C. Y. Danjuma, Chief of the Staff of Nigerian Army, arrived in New Delhi, on a ten-day visit at the invitation of

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Gen. T. N. Raina, Chief of the Staff of the Indian Army.

**May 1** Air Vice Marshal Hemant Bamkrishna Chitnis took over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, in the rank of Air Marshal at Bangalore. Air Marshal Chitnis is a holder of the "Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vayu Sena" Medal.

— Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, renamed Lady Hardings Hospital for Woman as Sucheta Kripalani Hospital and Willingdon Hospital as Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

— Dr. M. N. Wankhede, Chairman of the Maharashtra Public Service Commission died at Houston, USA, after a heart surgery at the Methodist Hospital.

— Central Social Welfare Board was reconstituted with Mrs. Leela S. Moolgaokar as Chairman and 43 other members—representative of the States and Union Territories, Social Scientists, social welfare administrators, prominent social workers, members of parliament and nominees of Ministeries and departments of the Goverment of India.

**2** In a surprise move, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Ram Naresh Yadav, dropped his Senior Colleague and local Self-Government Minister, Satya Prakash Malaviya, and inducted into the Cabinet two Ministers of Cabinet rank, three Ministers of State and two Deputy Ministers and promoted six Deputy Ministers as Ministers of State. A new ministerial crisis is imminent with the dropping of Mr. Malaviya, as six members of the Ministry have threatened to resign.

— Coalmines Nationalisation Laws (Amendment) Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha.

— Dhanraj Kabadi, a Janata Party leader and general manager of the daily Sanchar died after a heart attack. He wrs 32 years old.

— India and Norway signed an agreement in Delhi for export of textiles. The agreement is valid for four years and covers cotton, wool and manmade fibre.

**3** The Prime Minister of South Yemen, Ali Nasser Mohemmed arrived in New Delhi, on his way home from China. During his short stopover, he had a brief exchange of views with the Prime Minister Morarji Desai and the External Affairs Minister Attal Bihari Vajpayee.

— Vitthal Dattatraya Ghate, died in Pune. He was 84.

— R. B. Bedi, Chief Photographer of the Times of India, was elected as the President of News Cameraman Association.

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May 3 A peoples forum (Lok Manch) was launched at a meeting convened by Gulzari Lal Nanda.

— The Rural Electrification Corporation sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 10/— crores for 30 projects in 13 states. The States are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Peadesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

— Prof. Mohan Singh, eminent Punjabi poet died in Ludhiana. He was 75. He was written two dozen books of Punjabi poetry. He was a member of National Sahitya Akademi, General Secretary of the Punjab Sahitya Akademi and president of the Punjabi Sahitya Sabha. He had won the Nehru award from the Soviet Government.

— About 4000 people in Shopian, 50 km. from Srinagar, wake up to find their houses on fire. In the biggest ever blaze in town, 300 houses were gutted, The damage to property estimated was at Rs. 2 crores. No loss of life was reported Among the structures gutted were a mosque, the fire station, the land and development bank and the community listening centre of All India Radio.

— According to reports Government of India has, a as measure of humanitarian assistance sent relief assistance worth Rs. 2 lakh to Lebanon for the Lebanese and Palestinian victim of the recent Israeli agression on Southern Lebanon.

4 Dusan Evaritel, A Czech Professor has beed given the Ravindra award for his book, "History of Bengali Literarure", the award committee announced. Written in English, the book has been adjudged best on Bengali literature in a non-Bengali language. The Rabindra award for the best book in Bengali went to Nepal Majumdars "Bharate Jitiyabad, Antorikatabad O' Rabindranath".

— President has appointed Justice Tavi Ramaprasad Rao, acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, to be the Chief Justice of the same High Court from 29 May.

5 Sanjay Gandhi was lodged in Tihar Jail after the Supreme Court had concelled his bail for a month and ordered his arrest to prevent him from tempering with witnesses in the "Kissa Kursi Ka Case."

— Amrut Kansar, Member of Parliament from Goa announced that An All India Federation of Artisan (AIFA) has been set up to help artisans in securing better conditions.

— 25th Annual presentation of the Filmfare awards was held at the Shanmuktananda Hall. M. G. Ramachandran, Chief Mini-

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ster of Tamil Nadu presided.

**May 5** Two persons were killed in a railway accident near Karjat on the Bombay-Pune section of Central Railway.

— India and Bangla Desh signed an air sorvices agreement.

— Twenty-four member Indian Air Force mountaineering-cum-ski expedition to the Kedarnath massif in the Garhwal Himalayas achieved three successive triumphs. On 5 May, six members of the team set foot on the virgin **Bharte Khunta** per (21, 580 ft.) after negotiating trecherous ide-falls and crevasses. The second party consisting of four members repeated the operations on 6th May. On 7th May, four members reached the summit of Kedar Dome (22,410 ft.). Two of them first skied down its slopes to camp II (21,500 ft.) where they were joined by three other members to ski down to the advance base camp about 7,000 ft. below the summit. The summit to base ski descent took 90 minutes as against 15 hours of ascent.

**6** 14-member Anna DMK Ministry headed by M. G. Ramachandran was expanded with the addition of four more ministers. They are S. D. Somasundaram, R. A. Krishnaswamy, Mr. Soundrarajan and Mrs. Subbalakshmi.

— Ramesh Chand 'Prem', one of the pioneers of Hindi journalism, died, He was 53. A person of varied interest, he had written more than a dozen books on subjects ranging from stories for children to top-notch literary criticism.

— India and Sweden signed an agreement providing financial assistance from the Swedish International Agency (SIDA) to support malaria control work in India. The Swedish assistance amounts to 80 million Sw. Kr. (Swedish Kroners) which is equivalent to about Rs. 14.5 crores, for the next five years.

— Karnataka won the sub-junior National Soccer title and lifted the Mir Iqbal Hussain Trophy when they convincingly routed Uttar Pradesh by six goels to nil. The match was played at Nehru Stadium in Coimbatore.

— Dr. I. K. Taimmi, 80, a prominent leader of the Theosophical Society and an authority on Yoga and spiritual life, died at Lucknow.

**8** Britain agreed to grant India £50 million in aid to purchase goods and services for the development of the electric power industry.

— The Haryana Chief Minister, Devilal overcame the severest challenge to his 11 month old leadership, when he gained a 14-vote majority in a secret ballot conducted in the presence of the central party observer Atal Behari Vajpayee. On 10th May

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Devi Lal submitted the resignation of his nine-member council of Ministers to the Governor. after accepting the resignation of the first Janata Party Cabinet in the State, the Governor invited Devi Lal to form a new Government and oath of office and secrecy was also administered on 10th May itself.

May 8 A Shoshit Samaj Dal leader, Mastram Dehati was shot dead near village Mahoba. He was the founder of a number of educational institutions in Bareilly.

9 Mohan Bagan and East Bengal shared the Federation Cup when they finished the replay of the Second Federation Cup Football Tournament at the Nehru Stadium in Coimbatore as joint champions.

— Four passengers were killed and one was seriously injured in an accident in the Baroda railway yard.

— According to a report reaching Chandigarh an aggreement has been signed at Washington between World Bank representatives and a Punjab team, headed by Punjab Finance Minister Balwant Singh. According to the agreement World Bank has agreed to finance Rs. 67 crores for Water Supply and Sewerage project for eight cities in Punjab.

11 Nine persons died in the Shahganj-Mau Passenger train accident near Paligarh station in Azamgarh.

12 An agreement was signed in New Delhi between India and Tanzania, according to which India will give a credit of 2 crores to Tanzania. The credit will be used for importing from India construction equipment, workshop equipment and manufacturing equipment and their spare parts for industrial estates, material management, organisation and the building materials testing and development centre for the capital development.

13 Jyotirmoy Bosu, CPI-M Leader, has been appointed Chairman of the Public Undertaking Committee for the second year in succession by the Lok Sabha Speaker. Ram Dhan has also been appointed for another term as the Chairman of the 30-member parliamentary committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

14 Malojirao Naik Nimbalkar former ruler of Phaltan and a veteran congress men, died at a private nursing home in Pune.

— Sunder Singh Bhandari elected unopposed as a deputy leader (Rajya Sabha) of the Janata Parliamentary Party.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai laid the foundation of the

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Rs. 322 crore Bansagar multipurpose project at Deolong, 52 km. from Rewa, named after the great Sanskrit Scholar, Ban Bhatta, who spent his early years on the river Sone. The Bansagar project will irrigate 93,056 hectares of land in Rewa district and 23, 106 hectares in Satna district. The total area to receive irrigation facilities from the dam in a year will be about 2.48 lakh acres. It will also irrigate fields in Mirzapur district of UP and Palamau district of Bihar. Besides, three power stations with a total installed capacity of 455 MW will be built under the project, which will generate 227 MW of power.

**May 14** Mohan Bagan retained the Beighton Cup beating Central Reserve Police (Delhi) by a solitary goal in the second-leg of the double-leg hockey final.

— J.C. Mathur, 61, well known Hindi author and play wright died in Delhi. A specialist in folk and traditional drama and culture, Mr, Mathur had served in the Indian Civil Service from 1941 to 1973. He had been the Director-General of All India Radio from 1955 to 1962, a member of the UNESCO International Committee on Adult Education (1962-73) and Visiting Fellow, Harvard University Centre for International Affair, 1963-64. At the time of his death, he was the Vice-Chairman of the National School of Drama in 1961 and Bihar Rashtra Bhasha award for drama in 1954. He also planned and promoted the Nalanda Pali Insititute Vaisali Prakrit Institute, and the Bihar Academy of Music. Drama and Dance.

**15** Justice J.C. Shah, who submitted his two interim reports presented to the Parliament held Mrs. Indira Gandhi responsible for abuse of authority and misuse of power during the internal emergency proclaimed on 25 June, 1975, in a desperate endeavour to save herself from the legitimate compulsion of a judical verdict against her. Commission spoke of how the Cabinet and the important functionaries of the Govt. were not only not consulted but were deliberately kept in dark by Mrs. Indira Gandi when she decided to advise the President to impose "an internal emergency" on an already existing emergency in the country. Prime Minister, Morarji Desai informed the Lok Sabha that the Government had accepted the findings, observations and recommendations of Shah Commission. Commission has also held former information and Broadcasting Minister, V.C. Shukla guility of "gross missue of authority" and the indulging in corrupt practices punishable under article 123 of the Represention of people Act, 1951. The Commission also viewed Sanjay Gandhi's action as overlord of Public affairs in Delhi as the single greatest act of access committed during the Emergency.

— Law Minister Shanti Bhushan, introduced in the Lok Sabha

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the Constitution (45th Amendment) Bill 1978, which among other things provides for a referendum in any proposal for amendmend of the basic features of the Constitution. The Bill provides for amendment of article 368 of the Constitution to stipulate that the 4 basic features could be amended only if they are approved by a majority of votes at a referendum in which at least 51% of the electorate participates.

May 15 Agriculture Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, inaugurated in Delhi two-day conference of Vice-Chancellors of Agriculture Universities, to discuss their programme regarding research education and extention education in the next five years.

— Swami Vigyan Anand Saraswati, Arya Samaj leader died in Ghaziabad.

— S.S. Wodeyar has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka University, Dharwar, for a period of three years.

— Randhir Singh has taken over as Manager (Northern India) of Air India.

— Industry Minister, George Fernandes, announced in Lok Sabha that Government has set up a high level screening committee to manage affairs of sick industrial undertakings in the country. Committee will be empowered to examine all courses of action open and to decide on the most suitable measures to revamp a sick unit.

16 Minister of State for External Affairs, Samarenda Kundu, left for Havana to attend the meeting of "Non Aligned Bureau".

— G.S. Bhargava was appointed Principal Information Officer of the Press Information Bureau Govt. of India.

— Government scored a thumping victory when the historic joint session of Parliament passed the Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, earlier rejected by Rajya Sabea, despite vehement protest by a section of the Opposition. Thus, the another act of the previous Government during the emergency—the creation of a Banking Service Commission has been annuled. The Presidential Ordinance abolishing the Commission was approved by the Lok Sabha, but rejected by the Upper House on 8 December 1977.

17 S. S. Pillai, editor of Film Weekly 'Screen' died in Bombay.

— Dayaram Beri, Veteran trade Union leader and freedom fighter died in Calcutta. He was 84. One of the founder

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of INTUC, Mr. Beri was imprisoned several times and spent a total of 22 years in jail.

**May 17** Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill passed by Rajya Sabha. It has already been passed by Lok Sabha.

— Stated in Rajya Sabha that Bhoothalingam Committee on income, wages and price has submitted its report to the Government.

— Renowned Bengali poet Subhash Mukhopadhyaya has been awarded the Lotus Prize of the Afro-Asian Writers Associaion.

— Employment of Children (Amendment) Bill, 1978 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha by Labour Minister Ravindra Varma. The Bill seeks to amend the Employment of Children Act, 1938, to prevent the exploitation of child labour in workshop and other specified occupations.

— India's first skin bank was inaugurated at Parel in Central Bombay by Maharashtra Chief Minister Vasantrao Patil.

**18** Gurbachan Singh, High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, appointed Ambassador to Switzerland.

— Appointment of the Second Press Commission, headed by P.K. Goswami, a former judge of the Supreme Court, was announced in Rajya Sabha, by Minister of Information and Broadcasting L.K. Advani. 11-man new Press Commission has 5 journalists—Prem Bhatia, V.K. Narasimhan. S.H. Vatasayan. Moineud Harris and Abu Abraham. The other members are S.N. Dwivedi, Ravi Mathai, Yadhodhar N. Mehta, F.S. Nariman and Arun Shourie. The Commission will examine the pattern of relationship between the Government and the Press, particularly in regard to access to information, Commission is expected to submit its report in a year.

— One air-conditioned coach of superfast 124 UP Andhra Express was completely gutted in a fire between Sonagir and Datia railway stations of Central Railway, 25 KM from Jhansi.

**19** A dacota of the civil aviation department crashed shortly after noon, killing eight persons abroad. Of the dead, three were crew—the piloet, Captain G.N. Singh, Captain S. Bose and the Technician Paulson, all employees of Airworks India Ltd. The other five all policemen were unauthorised passenger.

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**May 19** India and Belgium signed a two-year cultural exchange programme, envisaging co-operation between the two countries in the fields of art and culture, sports, press, films, radio, television, education, science and techology.

— Two-day seminar on road safety was inaugurated by the Law Minister, Shanti Bhushan in New Delhi. About 50 delegates from various states representing traffic and allied organisations participated in the seminar, which has been organised by the Delhi Traffic Police.

— Lt. Gen. N.S. Nair (Retd.) died in New Delhi.

— Chairman of the Minorities Commissioner, M.R. Masani and a member, V.V. John have written a detailed letter to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, explaining reasons for their resignation from the Commission. They are expected to be relieved by 31 May. It was learnt that M.R Masani and V.V. John resigned because of repeated breach of faith on the part of the Government. They submitted their resignation letters after the last meeting of the commission of 8 May. The Commission was appointed on 23 February this year and only recently the cabinet reportedly approved the amendment decision. The initial feeling was that it would be introduced during the Current Sessions of Parliament.

**20** Trivandrum and Bombay were connected by an Airbus Service. With this Trivandrum will be the sixth city to be connected by Airbus and the third to receive the Airbus in Southern region, besides Madras and Bangalore.

— Union Government has set up a high-level committee to go into the question of evolving a national transport policy. Committee is headed by B.D. Pande, former Cabinet Secretary. It includes among others Airchief Marshal P.C. Lal, Joint Chairman of the Air India and Indian Airlines and G.P. Warrier, former Chairman of Railway Board. The Committee will go into all aspects of various modes and transport and there development in remoter and difficult area and is expected to submit its report by March next.

— External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee donated blood to the Indian Red Cross Society while inaugurating the first RSS blood donation camp at Keshavkunj, Jhandewalan in New Delhi. About 200 RSS Volunteers followed his example. RSS Plans to hold many blood donation eamps in different parts of the country during next two weeks.

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**May 20** Indian Airlines started operating four days a week, connected Allhabad with Delhi, Kanpur, Varanasi and Calcutta, after a lapse of about five years bringing Allahabad again on the air map of India.

**21** Rajasthan boys won the National Junior volleyball championship defeating Tamil Nadu in Patiala.

— Miss Jethi Sipa Himalyan, former Deputy Chairman of the Bombay Legislative Council, a freedom fighter and social worker, died in Bombay. She was 72. She participated in the freedom movement in Sindh before partition and was also Deputy Chairman of the Sindh Legislative Council. She migrated to India in 1952. She was the Deputy Chairman of earstwhile Bombay State from 1956-1962 and worked hard for the rehabilitation of refugees from Sindh, Pakistan, especially devoted to the housing problem of displaced persons.

— The three-day conference of the Income-tax commissioners was inaugurated by Union Finance Minister H.M. Patel.

— According to an official release, Assam Government has made education free up to class ten with effect from April 1978.

— Punjab won the girls title in the National Junior Volleyball Championship beating West Bengal, in Patiala.

**22** A bronze statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was unveiled by the Maharashtra Deputy Minister, N.K. Tirpude on the occasion of Buddha Jayanti. The statue was built at the cost of Rs. 50,000.

— One of the architects of modern Nagaland, Mr. Takassosang Ao died. He was the first Vice Chairman of the Mokokehung Town Committee and a member of the interim body, the de-facto State assembly prior to the formation of Nagaland State.

— International Development Association (IDA) is providing a credit of 14 million dollars for a project to improve marketing production of apples, walnuts and establish a small research component for mushroom development in Jammu and Kashmir.

— A bogey of 133-up Buxar—Varanasi passenger train was derailed near Bhadaura railway station, between Moghul Sarai and Patna.

— Torrential rains in Gangtok and northern parts of Sikkim during the last three days have claimed at least five lives and caused large-scale damage to road transport, power and telephone lines. Official reports said that the entire north district has been cut off from the rest of the state as several bridges

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पुस्तकालय गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय

have been damaged.

May 22 Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar III, former ruler of Indore died. He was 88.

— Three day-old lightning strike by the marine crew which had completely disrupted the movement of ships in the Calcutta port, was called off.

— A team of Indian journalists left for China on a three-week visit. This was the first such delegation to visit China in about 17 years. The visit has been sponsored by the Government of India in response to an invitation extended by the Chinese news agency, Hsinua. The members of the delegation are George Verghese, K.R. Malkani, Ranjit Roy, A.N. Sivaraman and Dharamvir Bharati.

23 69 houses were gutted in incidents of fire during 24 hours in Gonda, U.P.

— Property worth several thousand rupees was destroyed and 25 huts were gutted when a fire broke out at Hauz Khas village in Delhi.

— A group of youngmen looted Rs. 27,500 in a day-light robbery near a bank in Central Calcutta.

— Property worth several lakh of rupees was destroyed in a fire which broke out at at Bonigam, near Shalimar on the outskirts of Srinagar. 26 houses were destroyed.

24 2 persons died and 7 other were injured when three rear coaches of 26 UP Delhi-Bombay airconditioned express derailed at Dahanu road station, 120 km from Bombay.

— Polish Commercial Counsellor announced that Poland is ready to supply complete power plants and also offer technical assistance in maintenance work and industrial co-operation in the production of power equipmnt in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electricals.

— First contract for the sale of Soviet stamps to Indian philatelists has been signed in New Delhi between a Soviet book company and a Delhi firm.

— Gurbachan Singh, Ambassador to Switzerland has been concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Holy See, according to an official release.

— Wajid Husain Khan, a well-known tabla player died. He was recipient of the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy award.

— Value of the rupee in terms of the pound sterling is upgraded

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by 2.6 per cent in view of the Reserve Bank's decision to revise its rate for purchase and sale of pound sterling for spot delivery with effect from today. In November last, the selling price per one pound was Rs. 15.80, and buying price Rs. 15.70. From today the selling price per pound has been reduced to Rs. 15.40 & buying price Rs. 15.30.

**May 25** Four-day National age-wise acquatics championship started in Madras. Number of records were bettered and Anil Ganju of Rajasthan and Mridula Shastri of Maharashtra emerged as the country's brightest prospects.

— Afiastacio Almedia, one of the three general secretaries of the Janata Party, Goa Unit and a veteran Goan freedom fighter, died.

— Mrs. Chandramukhi Devi Saxena, a Congress leader and social worker, died in Jhansi.

— Lakshmi Narasimhan Rangarajan, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed the first resident Ambassador of India to Greece.

— Veteran freedom fighter Ram Kiriti died.

— Allahabad High Court held that Section 37 (A) of the Uttar Pradesh Excise Act, which prohibits transport and possession of intoxicants, was violative of article 14 and was, therefore, ultra vires of the Constitution, Under the Section 37A, the Governmedt had issued three notifications imposing total prohibition in seven districts of U.P. and had banned the sale of liquor in all bars and clubs throughout the State from April 1. Notification also introduced total prohibition of taree (neera) in the State. Government will appeal in the Supreme Court.

— International Development Association announced $ 85 million credit to India. The credit will help a $ 170 million irrigation project in Gujarat. The credit is for 50 years, including 10 years of grace. It is interest free and carries a service charge of 0.750/-

— Biren Mitra, former Chief Minister of Orissa died. He became Chief Minister of Orrisa, 18 years ago when Biju Patnaik, had to go out following the Kamaraj plan.

**26** Reserve Bank of India announced an upward revaluation of the rupee in relation to U.S. dollar by about two percent. Now onwards the exchange rates for purchase of U.S. dollor currency notes from the public by authorised dealers and money-changers will by Rs. 8.20 per dollor (against Rs. 8.35 hitherto) and for selling the public Rs. 8.60 against Rs. 8.75 per dollor.

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May 26 National instrument limited released for sale the country's 35 mm lens with part action and ultra-soft release,

— Officially reported the Union Government has set up an "Empowered Committe" to expediously process the recommendations of the Verghese Committee report on the autonomy for Akashvani and Doordarshan. The Committee will also monitor the suggestions made in the press and various other circles in restructuring Akashvani and Doordarshan and is expected to submit its report within three months.

— Railway Board announced the appointment of three General Manager. S.N. Sachev has been appointed General Manager of Eastern Railway in place of A. Srinivasan who takes over from G.H. Keshwani as General Manager of northern railway and K. S. Ramaswamy has been appointed General Manager of Western railway.

27 30-nation UNICEF executive board approved to invest $ 52.08 million in chief welfare programme in India over the next three years. This investment will cover child nutrition, health, drinking water supply, rural development, food-processing and village-level technology, urban development, education and related welfare services.

— Awadh Express which used to run between Lucknow and Agra started running between Kota and Lucknow and was renamed Awadh-Chambal Express.

28 A section of the 400 KV power system-built at a cost of 15 crores was commissioned and has started taking commercial load.

— About 125 houses were destroyed in a devastating fire which broke out in Adampur village in Moradabad, U.P.

— 8 persons were killed and 24 injured when the 328 Down-Danapur-Howrah fast passenger went off the rails between Athmalgola and Barh, about 70 Km from Patna.

— Karan Singh, a dacoit, was killed in an encounter with the police in the Chambal Valley ravines. According to police sources Karan Singh was wanted since 1967, when he jumped into the ravines after killing six persons at Prempura village in Agra dstrict.

29 Five mountaineers from Assam and three sherpas climbed the 20,975 feet Chaturangi peak in the Garhwal Himalaya.

— D.D. Deolalikar, a renowed artist, died. He was 90. He founded the Art College in Indore and had many disciples in India and abroad.

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**May 29** Talking to visiting Indian press delegation in Peking, Vice President of the Chinese National People's Congress, UIon Fu said that "if India has any views on simultaneous persuit of a border solution and normalisation of relations, we would like to discuss them" and said that Sino-Indian border problem will have to be solved and it will be solved.

**30** India opened talks with Syria, in New Delhi, on an air service agreement in pursuance of the decision taken last month during the visit of President Assad.

— Nicolae Ceauseseu, Romanian President, had a three-hours stop-over in New Delhi, on his way back home after visiting China, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Combodia. Of these three hours, he spent two hours with Morarji Desai at the Prime Ministers's residence over lunch and had wide ranging talks. He also gave the impression that Chinese leaders feel that prospects for improving relations with India are good.

**31** Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal H. Moolgavkar, took over as Chairman of the Committee of Chiefs of Staff. He took over from Gen. T.N. Raina, Chief of Army Staff, who retired. The Tradition is that the seniormost Chief of staff takes over as the Chairman of the Committee by rotation every year.

— The International Development Association (IDA) an affiliate of the World Bank announced the approval of two credits totalling $ 33.5 million (Rs. 28.5 crores) to help finance two priority development project in India. Credit of $ 16 million will assist India to launch the second phase of a national Seed programme to increase the availability of high quality seeds. At full development, the project will help produce $ 158 million worth more food grains and other crops a year. Some seven million people are expected to benefit from the project. Another credit of $ 17.5 million will support a project to increase shrimp and fish production and incomes of fishermen in Andhra Pradesh. Both the credits are for 50 years, including 10 years of grace. They are interest free, except for a service charge of 3/4 of one per cent per annum to meet the IDA's administrative cost.

**June 1** Lt. Gen. S.L. Menezes was appointed Vice-Chief of Army Staff.

— More than 600 families were rendered homeless when hundreds of huts were destroyed in a fire in New Seemapuri, a trans-Jamuna colony in Delhi.

— P. Venkatesh, renowed football (international) player of fifties, died.

**2** Congress (I) leaders protested to President Neelam Sanjiva

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Reddy against the Government's alleged move to set up a Special Court to try former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. In a memorandum they said that the step to bypass the normal process of law was a serious in-road into the rule of law and the overtones of Law Administration. It was presented to the President by the signatories which included Kamlapati Tripathi, P.V. Narsimha Rao, Uma Shankar Dikshit, Vasant Sathe and A.R. Antulay.

**June 2** Dr. Prana Krushna Parija, an eminent scientist and former Vice Chancellor of Utkal University died.

— J. Cursetji, Chief of Naval Staff, laid the Keel of the first ever totally India-designed frigate at the Mazagon Dock a Government of India enterprise. Laying the Keel, Admiral Cursetji said the Navy designers and the Mazagon Dock would not be content with this major advance in designing and building. They would develop competence and capacity to design and construct every type of ship needed by the Indian Navy.

— The People's Conference took over the reins of Government in Mizoram with the new Chief Minister Brig. Thenphung Sailo. Also sworn in along with Brig Sailo was his lone colleague, in the two member skelton cabinet, Mr. Lalhminthanga.

— S.N. Sachdev, Director (Traffic) Railway Board, took over as the Eastern Railway's new General Manager from R. Srinivasan, who has been appointed General Manager, Northern Railways.

**2** The Supreme Court stayed the operation of the Allahabad High Court judgment on prohibition in seven Uttar Pradesh districts with the observation that the judgment might not be sustainable.

**3** Air Chief Marshal H. Moolgavkar, Chief of the Air Staff left for the United States on a week-long visit to that country at the invitation of Gen. Daud C. Jones Chief of Staff, US Air Force.

— India and Syria signed an agreement enabling the international airlines of the two countries to operate two services to either country. Syrian Arab Airlines would operate one service to Bombay and another to Delhi through two intermediate points while Air India wil operate two services to Damascus.

— India and Indonesia signed an agreement providing for most favoured treatment to each other in the matter of customs, trade, foreign exchange regulations and shipping. The Commerce Minister Mr. Mohan Dharia and Mr. Radivs Prawiro, Indonesian Minister of Trade and Co-operative, signed the agreement in Djakarta.

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**June 5** Dr. M.G. Krishna, Director of the Central Fuel Research Institute in Dhanbad, died at Secunderabad. He was formerly the Director of the Indian Institute of Petroleum in Dehradun, where he worked since 1962. He was responsible for many successful pilot plant projects including production of low temperature coke for domestic use, coal tar distillation and hydrogenation techniques.

— J.C. Aggarwal took over as Chief Commissioner of the Union Territory of Chandigarh relieving T.N. Chaturvedi.

— Laxman Lodha, the notorious killer and dacoit gang leader, was shot dead in an encounter with police in Naglarami village under the Bhogaon police station, Manipur.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai, left on his 12 day visit to Belgium, Britain and the U.S.

— Sanjay Gandhi was granted bail by O.N. Vohra, Additional Sessions Judge, thus bringing to an end his one month's stay in Tihar jail. The Court imposed a condition on Sanjay Gandhi that he would not leave the country, without the court's prior permission during the trial of the case. Surety of Rs. 5,000 was furnished by the resident of Kamla Nagar.

— Union Finance Minister H.M. Patel, laid the foundation stone of ball bearings industry in South India. The project at Mysore initiated by the Karnataka Ball bearing corporation and the Jay Needle Bearings corporation, would go into production in November 1980. The products are ball bearings, roller bearings. Two well known Japanese firms Nachi-Furikoshi Corporation and Koyo-Seike Company are collaborators.

**6** Former national champion Ravi Sekhar won the 16th National "B" chess championship when he drew his crucial penultimate round match against Nasir Ali of U.P. another former national champion.

— Prof. Subodh Kumar Ghose, who pioneered the techniques of artificial rain making in India, died. A civil engineer by training, Prof. Ghose conducted for over 30 years experiments on cloud seeding in several parts of India using baloons, common salt and sodium.

— The World Bank has agreed to provide a loan of Rs. 68 crores to finance the sewerage and water supply scheme of the Punjab Government.

**7** Basavaraj Magawi, a former Karnataka Deputy Minister, was burnt to death in fire in his house at Haveri in Dharwar district.

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**June 7** Mrs. Rama Mehta, wife of Jagat Mehta, foreign Secretary, died. She was 54. Mrs. Mehta was a well known author in sociology and had written a number of books on the subject.

**8** India and Britain have signed a cultural agreement under which students, craftsmen and trainees will be able to study in each other's country under scholarships; The £1.6 million (about Rs 24 crores) scholarship amount was bequeathed to the two Governments by the Philanthropist, Shaw Wallace. The agreement was signed by Morarji Desai and Callaghan at a dinner at Caleridge's Hotel on June 7.

— The master plan for the control and use of the waters of Sahibi river was endorsed by representatives of the States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi at a meeting convened by Union Agriculture Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

— President Sanjiva Reddy gave national awards for outstanding export performance.

— Prime Minister, Morarji Desai arrived in New York from London on an eight day visit to the US to address the UN General Assembly Session on disarmament and for talks with Jimmy Carter in Washington.

— The Union Government decided to establish three port based steel plants with foreign collaboration. The plants to be set up at Paradeep, Visakhapatnam and Mangalore, will each have an annual production capacity of about 12 million tonnes of steel.

**9** The 13 nation Aid India consortium pledged to provide India a total of $2.3 billion in aid for the current year—some $ 200 million more than the total consortium aid last year.

— The Baveja Committee report has indicted the Delhi Development Authority for creating artificial land scarcity and "unprecedented" inflation in land prices in the capital.

— India and Nepal signed a formal agreement under which India will build a 14 MW hydroelectric project on the Trisul river.

— The Mizoram Chief Minister, Brig. T. Sailo named two more members of his Ministry, increasing its strength to four. The new members are Zairemthanga and P. B. R. Sanga.

— P. B. Poddar was elected Chairman of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Affairs of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC-CAPA) at its 25th Session in Bali till the end of 1979.

— Prof. M. V. Mathur, Director, National Staff College for Educational Planners and Administrators, has been unani-

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mously elected for a four year term to the Governing body of the Common Wealth Council for Educational Administration at its general meeting held at Vancouver, Canada.

June 9 The Supreme Court passed an interim stay order restraining the Punjab Government from enforcing its notification of March 13 forcing liquor shop keepers in Punjab to compulsorily close their excise shops on every Tuesday and Friday.

10 Prof. Sisir Gupta, former Indian Ambassador to Vietnam, died. He was Professor of diplomacy in the Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has authored several books and articles on India's foreign policy and on Kashmir. Mr. Gupta, was the first Indian Ambassador to Vietnam and was later appointed Ambassador to Portugal. He quited his diplomatic career after the Janata Government came to power.

11 Six people died in an abandoned mica mine filled with water in Nansa village, 50 km from the Bhilwara.

12 All the 14 public sector Banks and the State Bank of India observed a day's token strike all over the country in response to a call given by the All-India Confederation of Bank Officers Organisations. The strike call was given to protest against the implementation of the Pillai Committee recommendations which seek to standardize the pay, allowances and perquisites of the bank officers.

— India was redesignated a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy in Vienna. India represents the category of States, globally most advanced in the field of atomic energy. The new term is for two years.

— Niren De, former Attorney General of India died. He was 69. De took over as India's Attorney General in 1968. He resigned in March 1977 after Mrs. Gandhi was defeated at the polls. Born in Calcutta on Sepetember 17, 1908, De was called to the Bar from Lincoln's inn in 1933. The same year he was appointed a judge of the Calcutta High Court. He was appointed member of the Law Commission in 1961 and became Additional Solicitor General of India in 1964 and Solicitor General in October 1967. He had argued the Government's case when measures like nationalisation of banks and abolition of privy purses were challenged in the Supreme Court. He was also a member of the Indian Branch of the International Commission of Human Rights, National Panel of Arbitration, the American Arbitration Association, the International Society for Study of Comparative Public Law and the permament court of Arbitration at the Hague. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1974.

— The World Bank announced that it is lending $120 million to India for a telecommunications Project and that its affiliate,

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the International Development Association, is granting a credit of $150 million to India for a national diary development project. The bank said some 60 million people in small towns and villages will have local access to telephone facilities for the first time under the current Indian five year plan and that half of this will be provided under a seventh telecommunications project to be supported with the $120 million world bank loan.

**Juue 13** Army paratroopers climbed the 6,473 metre virgin Kinnaur Kailash peak in Himachal Pradesh.

— The International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, sanctioned two loans totalling $33.5 million to assist two priority development projects in India — one to increase high quality seed production and the other to raise shrimp and fish production.

— Justice Chand Mal Lodha, of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.

— V. V. Kothare, Chief Superintendent of the Tarapur atomic power station died in San Jose U.S. He was 47.

**14** Eight people were killed and twenty injured when a truck in which they were travelling over turned, about 13 km from Kampetee.

— The US House International Relations Committee approved an administration plan to continue sales of nuclear fuel to India. On a voice vote, it rejected a resolution that would have blocked transfer of 7.6 tons of uranium for the Tarapur Power plant.

**15** The Mizoram Cabinet was expanded with the addition of three Ministers. Zairemthanga, F. Malsawwma and P. B. Rosanga were sworn-in as Cabinet Ministers.

**16** The foundation of an All-India Janata Party Emotion Integration Committee, with Piloo Mody, as its President was announced in Indore. The Janata Party's General Secretary B. S. Nahar and the Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhairon Singh Shekawat would be the vice-president of the 25-member committee.

— Mukur Kante Khisha, Director in the Ministry of External Affairs, was appointed Ambassador to Zaire. He will succeed Mr. D'Souza.

— Reserve Bank reduced the buying and selling rate of US dollar in terms of rupee by ten paise with immediate effect.

**18** India and Afghanistan signed an agreement under which India

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will provide technical know-how and expertise for a hydro-electric power project in Afghanistan. The agreement also provides for the supply of 6,000 KW of electricity for laying transmission lines between Khanabad district and Kunzub.

**June 18** M. Karunanidhi was unanimously re-elected President of the Drivada Munnetra Kazhagam.

**21** An Indian Journalist received the first Gour Kishore Ghosh Koh Jai Work memorial award created by the Press Foundation of Asia ( PFA ) for his role in fighting for Press freedom.

— Oxford university honoured Satyajit Ray by conferring on him an honorary doctorate in recognition of his contribution to the world of cinema.

**22** At least nine persons were killed on the spot and 20 seriously injured when a bus carrying a barrat party skidded of the road and fell into a khud near Poonpoo about 10 KM Patna.

— The President has appointed three more judges to the Supreme Court of India. They are Justice Anand Dev Koshal, Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Ontethopalli Chinnappa Reddy, Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court and Justice Anand Prakash Sen, Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.

— Thailand, Indonesia, and India signed a trilateral agreement settling permanently the limits of the sea-bed areas in Andaman sea within which the three countries will exercise sovereign rights. Extending the carefully demarcated sea-bed boundaries, the agreement specifies a trijunction point roughly equidistant from the three countries--about 100 nautical miles from the nearest coastline points of Indonesia, Thailand and India.

**23** "Alaap" a television film on the sitar master Ravi Shankar, produced by Shukla Das of Doordarshan (Bombay) has been given the award for the best documentary on music at International Television Film Festival at Prague.

— India and West Germany signed an agreement in Bonn, according to which West Germany will provide DM 290 million (Rs. 122.38 crores) as aid to India. The assistance which is for the Indian Budgetary year 1978-79 is for projects in the areas of employment basic needs, rural development, irrigation, energy and improvement of utilisation of existing capacities.

**25** Six labourers were killed and 26 injured when a truck carrying them overturned near the Jhadol Dam in Bhilwara district.

**26** Dr. R. N. Bagchi, well known economist of Rajasthan, died. He was 67.

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**June 26** Eleven Border Security Force men climbed the 7,135 metre high Nun peak in the Ladakh Himalaya. On 25th June, seven BSF men had already climbed the peak.

— The entire bazar of Manali was destroyed in a fire.

— Raja Dube, the poet, critic and dramatist, died.

— Twenty one passengers of a private bus were killed and 24 injured in a train-bus collision at a manned level crossing between Bilpur and Miranpur Katra station on the Bareilly Shahjahanpur section of the Northern Railway.

**27** Bangladesh Agricultnre Minister, Aziz-ul-Huq arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit, primarily to discuss the establishment of an FAO Centre for Intergrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific countries.

**28** Dr. L. M. Singhvi, a noted jurist and constitutional expert has been named a member of the UN working Group on "Body of Principles for the protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment".

**29** Nine membrs of a marriage party were killed in a car-truck collision near Sambalkha on the Grand Trunk road.

— Home Minister, Charan Singh, his close confident, Raj Narain and four Ministers of State belonging to the erstwhile BLD resigned from the Central Cabinet as desired by the Prime Minister who had (on 29th June) asked them to quit from his Cabinet.

**July 1** President accepted the resignation of the Union Home Minister, Charan Singh and Union Health Minister, Raj Narain, as announced in a press Communique issued by the President's Secretariat. Prime Minister shall for the time being hold the charge of both these Ministries in addition to his present duties, the communique added. On 2nd July conflict in the Janata Party was extended to the organisational wing, when one of the general secretaries, Rabi Ray resigned his post in protest against the vindictive and partisan attitude of the Party President Chandrashekhar. Rabi Ray echoed Charan Singh's feeling that the party leadership has conspired to ease out those who had fought against the tyranny of Congress regime. There was further estrangement between the Janata Party and its BLD constituent, at least the part led by Charan Singh, as on 3rd July as Minister of Rajasthan Cabinet, Lal Chand and Vigyan Modi resigned as a protest against Morarji Desai compelling Charan Singh to quit from the Cabinet. On 4th July Janata Parliamentary Board asked Devi Lal to resign as Chief Minister of Haryana after he plainly refused to withdraw the conspiracy charge against the leadership on the Charan Singh issue or disassociate himself from the proposed rally of solida-

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rity with the Home Minister. The board decided to call a meeting of the State Janata legislature party on 7th July to elect a new leader. George Fernandes was designated as observer at the meeting. R.K. Amin, Treasurer of Janata Parliamentary Party, also resined in protest against Desai's action against Charan Singh and his resignation was accepted on 4th July. Following the high commands order to Devi Prasad to step down, five Ministers of Haryana Ministry resigned on 5th July, deserting Chief Minister Devi Lal. On 6th July Sham Nandan, Mishra deputy leader of Janata Parliamentary Party resigned from his post in protest against the action of the Prime Minister Desai, in dropping Charan Singh. However on 6th July, itself at late night an announcement was made by the Party President, Chandra Shekhar, that Charan Singh's Kisan rally of 17th July was off. He also announced cancellation of meeting of the Haryana legislative party, on 7th July to elect a new leader in place of Devi Lal. The announcement came after an informal meeting of the Union Cabinet at which various proposals mooted by the peacemakers, among them Atal Behari Vajpayee, Karpoori Thakur and Madhu Limaye, were discussed. Chandra Shekhar was asked to attend the cabinet meeting an unprecedented move by itself. The way for reconciliation was apparently paved by Devi Lal, who, in keeping with the advice given to to him by the peace makers, withdrew his charge that party "highups" had conspired to oust Charan Singh and Raj Narain. The patchwork peace formula worked out by the Janata Party leaders on 6th July seemed to be coming apart as on 7th July Charan Singh and his fraction set July 10 as the deadline for the resolution of all Intra-party disputes, including those effecting the Government wing or face the consequences of Kisan rally on 17 July. However, on 8th July, Charan Singh camp called off the controversial Kisan rally proposed to be held on July 17 following the tough stand taken by the Prime Minister, Desai, that an "overall settlement could not be reached undor a threat. Charan Singh who had given an ultimatum that if the settlement was not arrived at by July 10, the rally plan would stay, issued on July 8 a statement that the rally was being called off as a gesture of goodwill. With the factional crisis becoming less strident in the last two days ushering in a "cooling off period" group of 13 persistent hopefuls among the Janata leaders on 10 July entrusted to five among them the task of bringing about a reconcilation between Morarji Desai and Charan Singh. The conciliators were A.B. Vajpayee, L.K. Advani, George Fernandes, Biju Patnaik and Mohan Dharia, all central Ministers. On July 12, the National Executive of Janata Party "desired" Charan Singh to withdraw his letter of April 28 submitting his resignation from it as also from the Central Parliamentary Board of the Party. The resolution expressing the desire was moved by Surendra Mohan, a former General Secretary of the Janata Party, and was unanimously adopted after six and half hours of discussion. Charan Singh's camp welcomed the executive's

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gesture. Rabi Ray, who carried the executive's resolution with a brief letter from the Party president to Charan Singh, promptly withdrew his resignation from the General Secretaryship of the party, which he had submitted on July 2, in the height of the Party crisis.

July 1 — An agreement was signed in New Delhi between India and Afghanistan, according to which India will supply 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan as loan. The despatch of the consignment started on 10 July.

— The President, N. Sanjiva Reddy, inaugurated the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Merchants Chamber of Commerce.

— Thirteen persons died when a country boat carrying about 43 persons capsized in the river Budhandi, near Mangalpure, in Cuttack district.

— President Sanjiva Raddy unveiled the statue of Dr. B.C. Roy in Calcutta on the occasion of his birthday.

— President promulgated the Delhi Police ordinance, 1978 to introduce the system of Commissioner of Police in the capital. The Ordinance took effect immediately. J.N. Chaturvedi, Inspector-General of police, became the first police Commissioner.

3 — The Shah Commission ordered the prosecution of Bansi Lal, former Defence Minister, for refusal to take oath and to give evidence before it on oath under the Indian Penal Code.

— It was disclosed by Bombay municipal commissioner, B.K. Chougule, that the World Bank has agreed to loan Rs. 1.75 crores at a rate of 6.75 percent interest for the second phase of the Bombay city's water and sewage disposal project.

— Officially stated that an air agreement was signed between India and Seychelles in Victoria, following talks between the civil aviation delegation of India and Seychelles, which permits Air India to operate two services a week to end through Seychelles. Reciprocally, Seychelles Airlines have been permitted to operate two services to Bombay and points beyond to be selected by Seychelles and to be agreed upon by both the countries.

— The Konha Dogri dam, built recently at a cost of Rs. 3.5 lakhs in Birgudi village in Sihava block of Raipur district, collapsed due to heavy rain, according to a report received in Raipur.

— Four workers of the singal telegraph office were fatally run over by the 331 UP Gaya-Howrah Passenger and the Jamalpur railway station.

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**July 4** According to an agreement signed between India and Kuwait in Kuwait, India is to get a loan of 9.4 million dinars (about Rs. 271.5 million) for financing a hydraulic project.

— External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee left for Geneva to lead the Indian delegation to the second annual session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. He came back on 9th July.

— Patna High Court acquitted Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar spiritual head of the 24-year old socio-spiritual organisation, Anand Marg and four of his followers of the charges of criminal conspiracy and murder of six defectors. Four of his followers are Sarveshwaranad Awadhoot, Satyanand Awadhoot, Barun Kumar and Pabitra Kumar. Of the accused, Stayanand from Awadhoot Pabitra Kumar and Barun Kumar were released Jail on 5th July.

— Bhupatray Oza, deputy high commissioner in the High Commission of India at Colombo, has been appointed High Commissioner to Singapore.

— Mrs. Shanti Sadiq Ali has been nominated by the Government of India to be its principal delegate to the symposium being organised by the United Nations at Meseru Lesotho, on the exploitations of Africans in South Africa. Symposium was held from 17 to 20 July.

**5** Mrs. Indira Gandhi appeared before the privileges committee of the Lok Sabha in connection with the motion moved by Madhu Limaye alleging breach of privilege of the House by her in obstructing, during her tenure as Prime Minister, some officials of the Industry Ministry from collecting information on Maruti for a parliamentary question.

— According to an official release, the International Development Association has agreed to give a credit of $ 190 million for modernisation and maintenance of projects prepared by the Indian railways. The credit will be utilised over a period of five years.

— Raha M. Marouf, Vice-President of Iraq arrived in New Delhi for a three day visit. Official level talks were held on 6th July by Morarji Desai and his cabinet colleagues with a delegation led by the visiting Iraqi Vice-President. They covered a wide range of subjects and a broad measure of agreement on the issues discussed, emerged. Among the subjects discussed were the Horn of Africa, relations among Arab countries, the West Asia situation and proposals for a new economic order. Both sides agreed that unity and solidarity of the non-aligned countries should be strengthened. The Ministers who took part in the talks with the Iraqi delegation were A.B. Vajpayee, Jagjivan Ram, George Fernandes, Mohan Dharia and H.N. Bahuguna.

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The Foreign Secretary Jagat Mehta and the Additional Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Romesh Bhandary were present. The talks were followed by a meeting between the Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Sadoon Hammadi and Indian Foreign Minister A.B. Vajpayee when a further exchange of views on international issues was held. The focus was on the situation in the Horn of Africa.

**July 5** Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission held its 15th meeting in Delhi from 5th July to 11 July. It discussed two major items, one relating to augumentation of the dry season flows of Ganga and the other on border river problem. It was decided that a committee of the commission will further examine the two proposals before the next meeting of the commission. The commission also discussed the erosion problems of the border rivers common to the countries and decided that experts from the commission would undertake a joint inspection of some of the affected areas immediately and make suitable recommendation on protective work safeguarding the interest of both the countries. The Teesta river problem was also discussed.

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**6** Labour leader Bablu Datta was shot dead. He was assistant secretary of a textile mill labour union affiliated to the INTUC.

**—** First national convention of the Doordarshan Programme Staff Union was opened by the Prime Minister Morarji Desai in New Delhi. The Convention concluded on 9th July.

**8** Conference of heads of all defence science and research laboratories and establishments was held in New Delhi.

**9** Kishan Chand, former Lt. Governor of Delhi committed suicide by drowning in a well near Shahpur Jat Village, behind Gargi College, about 2 km. from his Neeti Bagh house. His body was recovered on 10th July.

**10** President N.Sanjiva Reddy inaugurated the 100 MW power unit at Nagarjunasagar in Andhra Pradesh.

**—** Officially announced that the World Bank and the International Development Association would provide three hundred crores rupees to Madhya Pradesh Forest Development Corporation for industrialisation of tribal dominated Bastar district.

**11** Central Bureau of Investigation registered six cases, including three against former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for various excesses during emergency. The cases against Mrs. Gandhi involves arrest of opposition leaders in Delhi and elswehere,

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arrest of elder stateman Bhimsen Sachar and harassment of Krishnaswami and other officials including customs and textile inspectors.

**July 11** U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Newsom arrived in New Delhi.

— Bangladesh Commerce Minister Saifur Rehman, arrived in New Delhi for talks with his Indian counterpart Mohan Dharia on bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

**12** An agreement on an Indo-Turkish cultural exchange programme for 1977-80 was signed in New Delhi. The programme envisages cooperation between the two countries in the field of education, art and culture, sports and youth activities and mass media.

— Minister of State for Commerce and Civil Supplies, K.K. Goyal, said that the government would soon take over five or six "sick" vanaspati units. This step, he said, was being taken to help control and stabilise vanaspati prices. With the acquisition of these units about 15 to 16% of vanaspati production will come under government control.

— Union Cabinet decided that Union Territory of Delhi will have a legislative assembly and council of Ministers, headed by a Chief Minister. The cabinet was believed to have agreed to seek amendment of Article 239 (A) of the constitution to include Delhi in it, besides Goa, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Pondicherry. This will mean that the Union Territories Act will also become applicable to Delhi. However a few adaptations will be made in the case of Delhi. The existing Metropolitan Council will be converted into a legislative assembly for the remainder of its term i.e. till 1982. The five nominated members of the Metropolitan Council will continue to be members of the legislature alongwith 61 elected members. However, no nominations to the assembly will be made in future. The powers of the council of miniters will be limited in certain respects in the case of New Delhi. Any decision taken by the Council of Ministers about law and the order or general political situation in New Delhi will require the concurrence of the Lt. Governor and the Cadre now composing of Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar island will be split into two separate cadres-one for Delhi and the other for Andaman and Nicobar islands.

— Central Cottage Industries Corporation employees started an indefinite sit-in strike to press for the redressal of their grievances. The strike affected all the three branches of the corporation in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta.

— Union Cabinet decided to abolish the 'P' form for foreign

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travel. This follows the relaxations announced by the Government in October last.

**July 12** Sharad Pawar, Industry Ministry in Maharashtra Cabinet resigned, exploding the mounting tension in the five-month old coalition Ministry of Vasantrao Patil. Mr. Pawar claimed support of 36 Congress MLAs. On 13 July Mr. Pawar claimed the support of 177 members in the 288-member state assembly. His chances of becoming next Chief Minister of Maharashtra were imminent. On July 14 an offer was made by the Congress (I) to withdraw from Maharashstra's coalition Ministry, which delayed a decision on the future of Vasantrao Patil government at least till 16 July. On 18th July the first ever non-Congress Ministry in Maharashtra, comprising a team of six, headed by Congress rebel, Sharad Pawar was sworn-in.

**13** India and Turkey signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation which entails exchange of experts, setting up of training facilities and joint ventures and other collaborations in the fields of industry.

— Three day conference of Education Ministers was inaugurated in New Delhi by the Prime Minister Morarji Desai. On 14th July the conference was to scrap the 10+2 system. Instead of the school education system (7 or 8 years), secondary education (2 years) and higher secondary education (2 years). The conference which concluded on 15th resolved to give top priority to the project to be implemented on the basis of national adult education programme formulated by a working group.

— Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, S.S. Barnala, arrived in Baghdad to discuss ways of upgrading cooperation with Iraq in land reclamation and irrigation projects.

— Shiv Pandya, a cartoonist attached to the Jana Satta-Lok Satta group of newspaper, died in Ahmedabad.

— More than 25 persons were feared drowned when a country boat carrying about 50 persons including 8 women, capsized in the Ganga near Kachi Dargah, 16 km. east of Patna.

**14** Four persons, all passengers of a jeep. were killed and another was injured when the 22nd Katihar-bound passenger train dashed against it at an unmanned level crossing near Tatighisa, 20 km. from Siliguri.

**15** Punjab retained the girls title of the national mini basketball championship when they beat Maharashtra 34-14 in the last league tie played in Bhilwara and on 16 July Punjab defeated West Bengal 37-31 to win the mini boys title.

— About 3,000 members of the Ministerial and supporting staff

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of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute launched a mass demonstration and relay hunger strike to press their demands for better service conditions.

**July 15** Twenty-three persons were killed and ninteen injured when a bus coming from Srinagar to Katra in Jammu rolled 900 feet down into a gorge at Makarkot near Ramsu, 171 km. from Srinagar on the Jammu-Srinagar highway.

— 76th birth anniversary of the late K. Kamaraj was celebrated in Tamil Nadu with great enthusiasm.

— Delhi Olympic Association president Vijay Kumar Malhotra has been elected Chief de mission of the India contingent to the Edmonton Commonwealth games.

**16** A conference of Southern Chief Ministers was held in Madras. All the five non-Janata Chief Ministers unanimously condemned attempts by the centre to impose Hindi on non-Hindi people and demanded a greater share of funds from the centre.

— Twenty people were drowned when a boat carrying them capsized mid-stream in the Yamuna at Augasi Ghat, 56 km, from Banda.

— Maharashtra annexed a double crown by winning both the boys and girls title in National Junior Basketball championship. Runners up Maharashtra won the boys final when they trounced host Rajasthan 116-84 and it retained girls title when they overcame Karnataka 74-73 in exciting final.

— India and the Soviet Union signed a protocol setting out guidelines for a long term programme of economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation. The programme to be finalised in a series of expert level meetings proposed to be held in New Delhi.

**17** Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud, Libyan Vice-President (he holds the rank of Prime minister), arrived in New Delhi on a 9 day visit to India.

**18** Veteran freedom fighter, poet and a prominent social worker among tribals, Sribals Sharma died in Dehra Dun.

**19** Three agreements were signed between India and Libya. One was a protocol on industrial, economic, scientific and technological cooperation, which anticipates a turnover of $ 1.5 billion, should all projects listed in it materialise. Another was trade agreement and the third one was on setting up a joint Indo-Libyan electricity company.

— Lok Sabha unamimously passed the government Bill for the

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repeal of the much hated Maintenance of Internal Security Act of 1971 at the end of a lively discussion.

**July 19** Lachhoo Maharaj, one of the greatest exponents of Kathak Gharana, died in Lucknow after a heart attack. He was 77, The death of Lachhoo Maharaj marks the end of an era for the famous Lucknow Kathak Gharana.

— Disclosed in Lok Sabha that the government has dicided to set up a special court to hear cases against Mrs. Gandhi arising from the Shah Commission reports. A decision to this effect was taken by the Union Cabinet more that 10 days ago. It was in pursuance of the decision that the Supreme Court would be consulted.

**20** Mrs. Daskhayani Velayudhan, who was member of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament, died in New Delhi.

— According to an official release the President has appointed Justice Balkrishna Narhar Deshmukh, a judge of the Bombay High Court to be the Chief Justice of the High Court at Bombay from 6th October.

**21** Announced in the Lok Sabha that the Union Government has decided to set up a high-level commission for all matters relating to scheduled castes aud scheduled tribes headed by Bhola Paswan Shastri, former Union Minister. Besides Mr. Paswan, the other members of the commission are Shishir Kumar, A. Jayaraman, Thakur Singh Negi and S. K. Mallick.

— President has appointed Justice Guru Prasanna Singh, a Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court to be the Chief Justice of that High Court.

**22** Whole valley of Manipur was declared disturbed area following a series of shooting incidents in Imphal and Suburbs resulting in the death of three police personnel besides some incidents of armed robberies. This order was promulgated under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Power Act 1958. The order was lifted on 1 August with immediate effect after minute assessment of the situation.

— J. Vengal Rao, former Andhra Chief Minister resigned his seat in the state assembly. He also announced his retirement from politics. His decision came in the wake of the Vimadalal Commission report which ascribed to him administrative improprieties when he was Chief Minister. Mr. Rao has been in politics for about 40 years.

**23** Parmanand Govindjiwala, MP from Madhya Pradesh succumbed to injuries sustained by him a week ago in an accident.

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**July 23** Mahant Bisahu Das, a former Minister of Madhya Pradesh and a former PCC Chief, died.

— President has appointed Dr. A. K. Dhan as Vice-Chancellor of the North-Eastern Hill University.

— A. B. Vajpayee left for Belgrade to attend the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers Conference.

**24** Noted exponent of Odissi dance and music, Kali Charan Patnaik, died. A famous dramatist and novelist, he was the recipient of the Sahitya Academy award for his novel "Kumbhar Okaka," last year.

— C. M. Poonacha, former Minister of State for Railways was understood to have been appointed the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

— Forty persons were feared to have been drowned when a boat carrying them capsized in the swollen Rapti river near Akona Ghat in Deoria district.

**25** Justice T. U. Mehta was sworn-in as Chief Justice of the Himachal High Court.

**26** India and United States reached bilateral agreement involving a wide range of concessions, including duty .eduction on the trading of tropical products within the ongoing multi-lateral Tokyo Round trade negotiations, the US delegation to the talks announced.

— Lok Sabha passed the Indian Explosives (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to regulate the explosive industry in the country.

— The International Development Association (IDA) has approved a $ 196 million (about Rs. 165 crores) credit for its second water supply and sewerage project in Bombay, according to a World Bank release.

— Reserve Bank has revised the rates for buying and selling the U. S. currency by banks and money changers from the tourists and public. The new rates are: buying Rs. 7.75 and selling Rs. 8.15 for one US Dollar.

— Eastern Command regained the Inter-Service Football Championship defeating Indian Air force by 2-1.

**27** According to a press communique from Rashtrapati Bhavan, appointment of Mrs. Sharla Mukherjee as Governor of Gujarat and K. C. Abraham as Governor of Andhra Pradesh was announced.

— India and Liberia signed an agreement for a framework of coop-

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eration in economic and technical fields,

July 27 Maharashtra assembly unanimously resolved that the Marathrada University be renamed as Dr. Balasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University.

28 Ramandas Mukherji, a veteran journalist and freedom fighter, died in Allahabad.

— Bharatiya Jnanpith award for 1977 was announced for Kannada litterature K. Shivarama Karanth for his novel "Mukajjiya Kanasugalu". Dr. Karanth who got the 13th Jnanpith award is the third Kannada writer.

— Glamorous singer, film and stage star, Binota Roy died.

— Group Captain R. Sundaresan of the Indian Air Force was killed in a flying accident near Pathankot. He was the sole occupant of the aircraft on a routine training sortie.

— Eight persons were killed and 23 injured when a bus returning from Baltal to Srinagar skidded and rolled down a mountainside near Sonmarg.

29 Seven people were killed and eleven injured when a Pandian Roadways Corporation bus and a lorry were involved in a head-on collision at Kurukkusalai.

— According to official source Narendra Shankar Mathur has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor or Govind Ballabh Pant University.

30 R. P. Mahesh, journalist and freedom fighter, died.

— India and Nepal signed an agreement for cooperation in setting up a number of industrial ventures in the Kingdom. The agreement envisages a new dimension in economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries following the successful conclusion of the treaties of trade and transit and inter-government agreement on cooperation to control unauthorized trade.

31 Twelve persons were killed and ten injured, four seriously, in a collision between a truck and a tempo near Gulhanman village, five km. from Jaunpur.

— Ram Gopal Sharma "Ratan", 82, a Hindi poet died in Moradabad.

— Reserve Bank of India announced that rupee has been devalued by 1.30 per cent as against pound sterling with immediate effect.

— Zail Singh, former Chief Minister of Punjab was arrested by the

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Vigilance Staff of the State and released on bail soon after. He was arrested under the Prevention of Corruption Act read with Sections 161 & 165 IPC in what has come to be known as the rice bran case of Punjab.

**August 1** Dr. P. C. Alexander has been appointed senior consultant to the United Nations International Trade Centre.

— General Gurbachan Singh has been appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, northern command.

— Lt. Gen. E.A. Vas took over as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command on the retirment of Gen. J.F.R. Jacob.

— Members of All India Aircraft Engineers Association started strike. The strike ended after 15 days as a gesture of goodwill after receiving assurances to consider their demands.

— Rajya Sabha passed the Taxation Law (Amendment) Bill seeking to exempt political parties registered with the Election Commission from the wealth tax. The Bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha.

— Twenty-five passengers were injured when the engine and four bogies of the Trivandrum-Cannanore Express derailed between Kaduthuruthi and Kuruppanthara stations and Ernakulam-Kottayam section of the southern railways.

**2** Eleven cabinet Ministers and 17 Ministers of Maharashtra took oath of office, thereby raising the strength of the Pawar Ministry to 34.

— The Janta Party President, Chandra Shekhar at a function held in New Delhi launched the "All India Sewa Dal a non-political and autonomous and voluntary organisation, with a call to all, irrespective of their political affiliation, to join it and help in the creation of a "new India".

**3** International Development Association, an affiliate of World Bank, announced a $ 196 million credit for India. The credit is for a water supply and sewerage project in Bombay.

— Ram Rattan Gupta, a leading industrialist, died in Kanpur.

**4** India and Japan signed an agreement for a six billion yen draft loan from Japan. According to the agreement, India can use the money to purchase commodities from any source in the world and thus obtain the most competitive prices.

— Prof. N.G. Ranga was elected Chairman of the farmers parliamentary forum for 1978-79 at the general body meeting of the forum held in New Delhi.

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**August 4** Shanti Swaroop Dhawan, former Governor of West Bengal, died. He was former High Commissioner to Britain and also judge of Allahabad High Court and a member of the Law Commission.

**5** According to reports received in Patna, eleven people were feared to have been drowned when a boat carrying twenty-six people overturned in the Ganga, 11 km from Onghyr.

— Central Wakf Council held its 16th meeting in New Delhi and decided to set up a Rs. 75 lakh wakf vocation technical institute to import technical guidance and vocational training in various trades to economically backward classes.

— Mrs. Annapurna Devi Ganeriwala, wife of late Bajrangalal Generiwala, of well known Ganeriwala family of Raniganj, died.

— An official Indian delegation arrived in Baghdad on a three-day visit. The delegation will have talks with officials of the Iraqi Trade Ministry to prepare for the meeting of the Iraqi Indian Joint Committee scheduled in November.

**6** The Action Committee announced the suspension of 10-day-old agitation by the Marathwada students action committee over the issue of renaming Marathwada University after Baba Saheb Ambedkar. This follows a joint meeting of prominent citizens and the Marathwada University students Action Committee at Aurangabad.

— The Industrial Bank of India (IDBI) sanctioned credit for Rs. 42 crores to Bangladesh in participation with Indian commercial banks. The credit would be utilised by Bangladesh for purchase of certain specified items of machinery and capital equipment from India.

— Hazarat Mulana Farooq Hussani, freedom fighter and secretary, Bihar Pradesh Jamait-Ulema, died in Patna.

— Two Indian Schoolboys, Mahaveer and Naresh Kumar were crowned World Champions while five others claimed second spot in the world schoolboys wrestling championship which concluded at Albuquerque, New Mexico in United States.

— Union Government issued orders (under the central Civil services Conduct Rules) to ensure that whenever oral instructions are issued in the transaction of Government business, they are immediately confirmed in writing by the authority giving them.

— Vice-Admiral R.K. Pereira, Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff was appointed Honorary Naval-Aid-de camp to the President.

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**August 7** Chief Ministers of Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa signed a trilateral agreement on utilisation of the water rccources of the Subarnarekha-Kharkal basin. The optimum utilisation and sharing of the water resources of the Subarnarekha would have beneficial effects in the three states by way of additional irrigation flood management and availability of water for industrial use.

— Indian woman won the team title and the men's team finished fifth in the World Railway table tennis championship held at Plezen in Czechoslovakia from 7 to 11 August.

— Industry Minister, George Fernandes announced in the Lok Sabha the new textile policy. According to the new policy the Government decided to discontinue from 1st October, the obligation imposed in the organised sector to produce controlled cloth.

— Mrs. Om Prabha Jain, former Finance Minister of Haryana died in a car accident in Kaithal.

— Rajya Sabha passed the Press Council Bill, as reported by the Joint Committee of Parliament, for the purpose of preserving the freedom of press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspaper and news agencies in India.

— Twenty-one people were injured and admitted to the hospital following a collision between two north-bound suburban trains in Bombay, in a freak accident.

**8** K. Vasudev Naik, former Deputy Speaker of Andhra Pradesh, died in Hyderabad.

— Sqn. Ldr. R. C. Nanda was killed in a flying accident in the eastern sector.

**9** Birender Singh Thapa of India won a bronze medal in the commonwealth games boxing tournament held in Edmonton.

— Lok Sabha gave its approval, by 345 votes to two, to the Law Minister, Shanti Bhushan's motion to take up for consideration the 45th Constitution Amendment Bill and moved on to a clause-by clause discussion of the measure.

— Railway Minister, Madhu Dandavate, launched a new fast train linking Porbander with Ahmedabad. The introduction of this classless train, Gandhigram Express will reduce the 470 km. journey from Ahmedabad to Porbander from 16 to 13 hours.

**10** Acharya Veerya Raghavacharya of Jhalaria Math belonging to Ramanuj Sect died in Pushkar, the Hindu pilgrimage centre near Ajmer.

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August 10 Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Surjit Singh Barnala announced in the Lok Sabha, Government's decision to lift the control on prices movement and distribution of sugar from 16 August.

— A five-member official delegation of India arrived in Dacca for talks to make arrangements for overland trade facilities between Bangladesh and Nepal through Indian territory. The three-day talks began on 11th August.

— International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the world bank, announced approval of a $111 million credit for India. The credit will be utilised for an irrigation project in Haryana.

— Minister of State for External Affairs, Samarendra Kundu, left for Geneva to attend the World Conference to combat racism and racial discrimination.

— Muslim League MLA T.A. Ibrahim died at the Sree Ramakrishna hospital in Trivandrum.

— Suresh Babu won the bronze medal by leaping 7.94 metres in the men's long jump event at the commonwealth games.

— The Vimadalal Commission of Inquiry, went into the charges against the former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, J. Vengal Rao, submitted its first report to the state government for taking up follow-up action on the findings.

11 Defence Minister, Jagjivan Ram released a magazine 'Rail India.

— 'Kala Sri' awards were presented at a function held at Aiwan-e-Ghalib, Delhi.

— P.N. Dhar, a renowned economist, secretary to the former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and former Director of the Institute of Economic Growth, is likely to be appointed Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations.

12 Babu Singh, a prominent advocate and a Janata Party worker, was stabbed to death in Bulandshahar.

— Combined Universities won the Junior National Hockey Championship defeating the Indian Airlines Corporation by a solitary goal.

— West German Economic Minister, Dr. Otto Graf Lambasdoroff arrived in New Delhi on a five day official visit.

— Delhi's Kanjhawala village land dispute took a serious turn.

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Over 5,000 villagers gathered outside the Prime Ministers house broke police cordon and threw stones at Desai house. The police burst more than 180 teargas shells and grenades resorted to repeated can charge to disperse the demonstrators. More than 100 persons were wounded and 160 arrested.

**August 13** External Affairs Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, left New Delhi on a week-long visit to Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong. Mr. Vajpayee had talks in Japan with the Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. After two days of talks India and Japan agreed to promote bilateral relations and enhance stability in Asia. Mr. Vajpayee flew in Seoul from Tokyo on 17th August and held talks with his South Korean counterpart, Park Tong Jin on expanding links between their two countries. On 18th August he met South Korean President to exchange views on topics of mutual interest. Mr. Vajpayee also held a separate meeting with the South Korean Prime Minister, Choi Kyu-hah. He returned to Delhi on 20th August after staying for one day in Hong Kong.

— Mrs. Kanaparthi Varlakshmamma, 82 years old well known Telugu writer, died in Bapatla. She was the first women to receive "Grihalakshmi Swarna Kankanam and also the first woman writer to receive the Andhra Pradesh Sahitya Academi award.

**14** Air Marshal Lal Singh took over as Deputy Chief of Air Staff for his distinguished services of the most exceptional order. Air Marshal Grewal was awarded "Param Vishist Seva Medal" and he was also earlier honoured with "Vir Chakra" and "Ati Vishisht Seva Medal".

— Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram unveiled a lifesize statue of Swami Vivekananda outside the Central library at the Delhi University campus.

— India and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding on Nepal's trade with Bangladesh and other countries through the territories of India and Bangladesh. The procedures and arrangements envisaged in the memorandum of understanding came into force on 15 September.

— Madhu Limaye is understood to have sent in his letter of resignation as general secretary of the Janata Party although efforts are being made to persuade him to take it back. Mr. Limaye sent his resignation letter to the Party President on 10 August almost in disgust over the failure of sustained efforts he and other peacemakers had made over the last few weeks to bring about a rapprochement between the Prime Minister and Charan Singh.

— Mrs. Sharda Mukherjee became the first woman Governor

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of Gujarat after she was sworn in at the new Raj Bhavan at Gandhi Nagar, 30 km from Ahmedabad. K.C. Abraham was also sworn-in as Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

**August 15** At least 45 persons were drowned in two separate boat mishaps in Saran in Begusarai district.

— India presented a meteorological station to Sri Lanka for measuring upper air pressures, temperatures and humidity at different levels of atmosphere.

— Lok Sabha speaker, K.S. Hegde, unveiled a marble bust of Aurobindo near the main gate of central hall of Parliament.

— M. Kunjukrishnan Nadar, Congress member of the Kerala Assembly died at Trivandrum.

— Mrs. Saraswati Giri, wife of the former President V.V. Giri, died in Delhi. She was 78.

16 Acharya Kedarnathji, well known thinker and philosopher died in Bombay. He was 95.

— According to official sources India and Bhutan have upgraded their missions in each others capital to the level of embassies. Hitherto, they were at representatives level.

— Agriculture Minister Surjit Singh Barnala presented to Parliament the report of the Naramda Tribunal and hoped it would clear the way for speedy implementation of the projects on the river which would provide irrigation to five million hectares.

— India and Afghanistan signed an agreement providing research and training facilities to Afghan medicos in India. The agreement has been signed by the heads of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Afghan Institute of child welfare.

— Konark Express, fast, classless train, linking Bhubaneswar with Secunderabad was inaugurated by the Railway Minister Madhu Dandavate. The train is supposed to cover 1143 km in 10 hours. It will be a daily express.

— Major Gen. Y.S. Paranjape (retired) World war II Veteran, died in Pune. He was associated with social and educational institutions in Pune. He has written two books in Marathi.

— N.N. Wanchoo, laid down the office of the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

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**August 16** The President has appointed Justice Vasant Shamrao Deshpande, a judge of Delhi High Court to be the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai inaugurated a three-day round table conference on the Adaptation of administration to Rural Development organised by the Government of India in collaboration with ESCAP.

— Reserve Bank of India announced a revision in the value of the rupee in relation to the pound sterling fixing a middle rate of Rs. 15.75 per pound sterling, with immediate effect.

**17** B.S. Somasundaram, retired judge of the Madras High Court has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai University for three years from 5th September.

— C.M. Poonacha was sworn-in as Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

— Lok Sabha passed a bill to constitute a coastguard force for ensuring the security of maritime zones. The bill has already been passed by Rajya Sabha.

**18** The President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Walter Sheel bestowed the Knight Commander's cross with the badge and star of the order of Merit to J.D.R. Tata, who was one of the first Indian Industrialists to take the cooperation of the German companies as early as 1950.

— Principal Bawa Harikishan Singh, renowned educationlist, scholar of Sikh Scriptures and Sikh leader, died. Principal Bawa played a significant but quiet role in the Akali movement in the late twenties. He poineered the Sikh educational movement in the United Punjab and built Gujranwala Guru Nanak Khalsa college and after partition Sikh National College, where he retired in 1962. He also participated and led Punjabi Suba movement.

**19** The former Prime Minister appeared before privileges committee of Lok Sabha and deposed before it for about two hours. She was facing the charge of breach of privilege of Parliament, obstructing during her tenure as Prime Minister, officials of the Industry Ministry who were collecting information about Maruti for a question in Parliament.

— The Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, inaugurated the Indian Coasts Guard, a para-military force for guarding the nation's coast line and territorial waters.

**20** Dr. Satish Chandra Sen, former President of the Indian Medical Association and a prominent radiologist died. He was 83.

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**August 20** Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, left for Moscow to attend a ten-day International Congress of Genetics.

— Mark Fernandes, a member of the Janata executive of Goa Unit was killed in Panaji in a bus accident. A freedom fighter, Mark Fernandes was also the President of the Goa Freedom fighters association.

— Ajudhya Prasad, General Secretary of the Haryana Janata Party, died at the AIIMS, New Delhi.

**21** According to report received in Arrah, 13 persons drowned when a boat carrying 100 passengers capsized in the Ganga near village Niyazipur under Semri Block on 14th August.

— Air Marshal E. Dhatigara was appointed Vice-Chief of Air Staff. He took over on 4 September, 1978. Earlier he was Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command.

— An announcement in both Houses of Parliament was made, according to which status quo in respect of payment of bonus of 8.33 per cent in being maintained. The minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent will be paid to eligible workers regardless of profit of 1977.

— Dr. R. Viswanathan, professor of Vallabhai Patel Chest Institute, has been awarded the Carlo Orlanni Gold Medal by the Ederazione Controlla Auberculosi. He has already won the international Eugino Moralli prize by the National Academy of Science, Italy in 1969. In 1970, he was awarded the Dhanwathari medal by the Indian National Science Academy.

— India emerged champions by defeating Singapore 2-1 in the International Karate Competition held in Madras. Earlier, Maharashtra rode to victory as the national champion by edging out Tamil Nadu 3-2.

— The President, N. Sanjiva Reddy, unveiled the portrait of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari in the Central hall of Parliament. This is the first portrait of a national leader from the south in the Central hall.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai inaugurated the three-day Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) ministerial conference in New Delhi. On 22 August virtually all the speakers in the conference supported the idea of setting up a trade co-operative group (TCG) as a permanent forum for giving effect to the ESCAP scheme for expanding regional trade.

— Raj Bahadur Yadav, an MLA from Jaunpur district died at Mirzapur.

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**August 21** Two-day meeting of the committee of the National Development Council started in New Delhi. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Prof. Lakdawala presided over the meeting. Almost all the states demanded a larger transfer of resources by the centre to them through the statutory machinery of Finance Commission. A number of them also argued that not only tax sharing and plan assistance, but the allocation of market borrowing and the flow of the institutional finance to the states should be regulated on the basis of agreed principles which might be indicated by the NDC. On 22 August the committee decided to appoint a Working Group of 12 State Chief Ministers with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Lakadawala, as Chairman and the Union Finance Minister, H.M. Patel, as member to examine in detail, the various suggestions put forward by the States and assess their quantitative implication for a decision by the committee. The members of the working group are Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Mehghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

— Vinod Mankad, 61, one of the cricket's great person died in Bombay. 'Vinoo' Malvantrai Mankad made his debut at the age of 18 for western vs. Bombay match and came into prominence in 1937-38 while playing for Nawanagar against Lord Tennyson's team. In 1952, he completed the fastest ever test "double" of 1000 runs and 100 wickets (23 tests) and joined Wilfred Rhodes and Keith Miller amongst the scrorers of 2,000 runs and 100 Wickets in test cricket. Mankad was the only Indian to score 1000 runs and capture 100 wickets in a tour of England.

**22** Prof. R.G. Takwale has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Pune University.

**23** Former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Ghandhi appeared before the Special Judge J.D. Jain, in connection with the jeeps procurement case and was released on bail. The bail was granted on furnishing a bond of Rs. 15,000 and a surity of like amount to the satisfaction of the court.

— Lok Sabha adopted the Constitution (45th Amendment) Bill, which has been renumbered as the 44th Act, by a massive 355 votes in favour and one against. The Bill has the twin objectives of removing the distortions wrought by the 42nd Amendment passed during the emergency, and of incorporating adequate safeguards against any future subversion of the constitution.

— Roop Krishna Anand, Ambassador of India (designate) to Argentina, has been concurrently accredited Ambassador of India to Paraguay with residence in Buenos Aires.

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August 23 The Union Government rejected the Bhoothalingam Committee recommendations for a uniform rate of dearness allowanee throughout the country.

24 Announced in Rajya Sabha, that the Cabinet has appointed a committee of six members under the Chairmanship of the Defence Minister, Jagjivan Ram, to go into the various aspect of the public distribution system.

— Army Chief General O.P. Malhotra, presented the Mac Gregon Memorial medals to five army officers in New Delhi at a funtion held at Kashmir House. The awards instituted in the memory of Major-General Charles Mcgregor, in 1887, are given for exceptionals acts of exploration or reconnaissance in forward areas. It was for the first time since independence that the awards were presented by the council of the United Service Institution of India, which was founded by General Macgregor. The recipients this year are Lt. Col. Chandan Singh Nuygal, Brig, Mohinder Lal Whig, Maj. Prem Chand, Captain Ravindra Mishra, Subedar Bel Bahadur Pun.

— Lok Sabha passed the Delhi Police Bill by voice vote. The Bill sought to replace an Ordinance by which the Police Commissioner's set up was introduced in the Union Territory of Delhi.

25 Nine-year old Indo German agriculture development project in Almora was handed over to the Uttar Pradesh Government by the West German Ambassador Dirk Oncken.

— Prime Minister, Morarji Desai released a special postage stamp on the Bhagwadgita in New Delhi. The stamp has the traditional picture of Lord Krishna and Arjuna in battle readiness on their Chariot. Stanza 47 of chapter II has been reproduced on the stamp.

26 Shah Commission submitted its report, running in to almost 1,000 pages, to the Government.

— In signing agreements the United States of America resumed development assistance of 60 million to India which was suspended since the Bangladesh war of 1971.

27 The President, N. Sanjiva Reddy, gave his assent to the Delhi Police Bill.

— Thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan assembled for the rally at Kanjhawala village, near Nangloi in West Delhi in support of demands, Which include restroation to the Village Gaon Sabha of 120 acres of grazing land now in possessions of the Harijans.

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August 27 The Union Cabinet approved the Industrial Relations Bill, the bill among other things, aims at providing job protection to the middle management.

28 India and Vietnam signed an agreement in Delhi on co-operation in radio and television. The agreement provided for exchange of programmes depicting development in the socio-economic, scientific and cultural fields.

— The Ashok Mehta Committee on Panchayati Raj institutions in its report submitted to the Prime Minister, recommended decentralisation of financial powers from the State level to the district level. It also suggested planning to start at the bloc level.

— National awards for the year 1977 were presented to 110 teachers from all over the country by the Vice President B.D. Jatti at a ceremony held in New Delhi.

29 The Prime Minister, Morarji Desai left for Nairobi to represent the Government of India at the funeral of Jomo Kenyatta.

— The Union Cabinet approved the Home Ministry's proposal to set up special eourts to exclusively try economic offenders.

30 C.K. Depthary was elected president of the Bar Association of India.

— India and Vietnam signed a trade protocol envisaging a two-way trade turnover of US $ 10 million by the end of next year. The items of export from India identified in the protocol are cotton ya.n textile machinery spare parts, cycle inner tube valves, chemicals for industrial purposes and insecticides The items identified for import from Vietnam include timber and edible oil.

— Over 2000 members of the Kisan Sangharsh Samiti courted arrest peacefully near Parliament House to protest against the distribution of land in villages including the Kanjhawla on a caste rather than a need basis.

31 The Press Council Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha without a dissenting voice. The Bill seeks to establish a Press Couneil for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers and news agencies in the country.

— A memorandum oi understanding on economic co-operation was signed in New Delhi at the end of discussion between the delegation of the two countries. The agreement covers commercial relations, economic and industrial co-operation and sharing of technical somehow.

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August 31 — Air Chief Marshal Idris Hasan Latif took over as Chief of the Air Staff.

— A delegation headed by B.S. Vishwanath, M.L.C., and President of the National Co-operative Union of India left for Moscow to study the progress and working of important co-operative organisations in the Soviet Union.

— A memorandum of understanding was signed between India and Algeria in New Delhi whereby India agreed to give Algeria, the technology, manpower and equipment it needs for developing its industrial structure.

— The Shah Commission, in its final report presented to Parliament, made a strong plea for the overhaul of the system of administration so that it could work in a free atmosphere and in a spirit calculated to promote the integrity and welfare of the nation and the rule of law. The Commission further suggested that public servants must be politically natural at all.

September 1 — An Indian Air force Ghat crashed near Pampure town, 11 km from Srinagar. The plane was on a routine training flight. The pilot bailed out.

— Five persons were crushed to death and two others injured one of them seriously, when the Delhi bound Howrah-Delhi Express ploughed through a crowd of passengers at Sadisopur, a wayside station on the Danapur-Moghulsarai Section of the Eastern Railway, about 25 Km from Patna.

— I.H. Latif took over as Chief of the Air Staff in the rank of Air Chief Marshal.

2 — A delegation of Parliamentarians left for West Germany to attend the 65th Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference opening in Bonn on 3rd September.

— Four persons including two firemen were killed and 40 sustained injuries when the engine and two coaches of the 285 UP passenger train on the Man-Shahganj metre gauge section of Varanasi division derailed and capsized near the outer signal of Saraimeer situation.

— A goodwill mission left for Bulgaria to attend the national day celebration of that country. The missioo was under the ausipices of India-Bulgaria Friendship society and was being led by Pradyumna.

— Indian Airlines won the Rangaswami Cup for the National Hockey Championship at the Race Course ground in Madurai They scored one goal in the second leg final againstt Railways, with whom they had shared the trophy last year at Madras to make the aggregate score 3-1.

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**September 2** The Pakistan Agriculture Minister Khwaja Mohd. Safdar, arrived in New Delhi to negotiate the purchase of wheat seeds from India, On 3rd Sept. an agreed communique was issued at the end of the discussion between the Indian Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Surjit Singh Barnala and Khwaja Mohd. Sardar. According to this communique India is to supply Pakistan 5,270 tonnes of wheat seed worth over Rs.1. 58 crores for this year's rabi sowing and will consider further supplies. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi on 7th September by the Pakistan Ambassador Abdul Sattar and Mr. Anna R. Malhotra, Chairman of the National Seeds Corporation. The delivery of the seeds will be made at the Indo-Pak border in a phased manner coinciding with the coming rabi season in Pakistan.

**3** Dr. H.N. Yadav, Former Chairman of the Bihar Public Service Commission, has taken over as Vice Chancellor of Mithila University.

— G.R. Damodaran has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Madras University with effect from the date he assumes charge of the new office.

**4** The Janata National Executive during its two days session at New Delhi approved the rules for the Constitution and functioning of various organs of the Janata Party. Charan Singh, Madhu Limaye and Chandravati did not attend.

— The ailing social worker of Nepal, Tulsi Mehar Shreshta, reeeived Nehru Award for International Understanding from the Indian Education Minister, Dr. P.C. Chunder, at a touching ceremony in Kathmandu. Tulsi Mehar, 82, was brought from the hospital to the function in an ambulance with doctors in attendance.

— Air Vice Marshal, Dilbagh Singh, one of the most out standing fighter pilots of the Indian Air Force, took over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command, in the rank of Air Marshal. He took over from Air Marshal E. Dhatigara, who has been appointed Vice-Chief of the Air Staff.

— With the Jamuna rising all four road bridges across the river in Delhi were closed to vehicular traffic at mid night. The capital faced the century' worst ever floods in living memory. Thousands of people were evacuated from North Delhi. On 6th September swollen Jamuna gushed into East Delhi colonies through more than half a dozen breeches in the 16 km long marginal bandh.

**5** Union Minister for Petroleum H.M. Bahuguna commissioned Salaya-Viramgam-Koyalipipe line near Baroda.

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**September 6** Two new Ministers—Dallename (Minister of State) and Longnyiem (Deputy Minister) have been inducted in the Nagaland Ministry raising its strength to 17.

— Chiman Singh Lodha, an old freedom fighter died. He was 75. Mr. Lodha had been president of the Boowar Municipal Council for several years

7 Edatata Narayanan, 71, editor of Patriot died. He began his journalistic carrer in Anne Basant's Young India in 1929. He started Link till in 1958 and Patriot in 1963. He remained Editor of Link till 1969 when he became Chairman of the editorial board of Patriot as well as Link.

— Madras University won the All India Inter University Chess Chamyionship for the third time in a row.

— Nafisual Hasan, a former Speaker of the UP Assembly and former member of the Rajya Sabha died at the age of 80.

— The USSR Presidium has honoured A.C. Banerjee, managing director, Trade Fair Authority of India, with a ,gold medallion for his outstadding organisation of the Indian National Exhibition hold in Moscow last month.

8 The President, Sanjiva Reddy, promulgated an Ordinance to ensure continuance of the bonus arrangement of 1977 for one more year. Under this, labour will get a minimum of 8.33 percent of their emoluments regardless of losses sustained by the employees.

9 Mahakavi Bairagi, a noted poet in Telugu and Hindi died in Hyderabad. He was 54. His works include "Palayan" an anthology in Hindi and Noothilo Gonthukalu and Neeli Needalu in Telugu.

— Prof. B.N. Ganguli, former Vice Chancellor of Delhi Universily and former director of the Delhi School of Economics died in Bombay. He was 76.

10 Foreign Affairs Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee left for Frankfurt on his way to Moscow to began a seven day visit to Russia, He was accompanied by senior officials of External Affairs Ministry.

— The flood situation in Bihar took a serious turn with flood waters entering a number of towns besides submerging vast rural areas.

11 Dr. Abrar Mustafa Khan, has been appointed Vice Chancellor of Kanpur University.

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**September 11** Mrs. Subhadra Mahtab wife of the veteran leader, Dr. H. K. Mahtab, died. She was 78. A freedom fighter and social reformer she has been jailed twice for participating in the satyagraha and non-cooperation movement of Maharashtra led by Mahatma Gandhi.

— Prof. C. Dwarakanath, former adviser to the Union Health Ministry in indigenous system of medicine, died. He was 72.

— Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, died. He was 78. He was the first Indian to become the Archibishop of Bombay and also the first Indian to become a Cardinal.

**12** Eight of the thirteen occupants of a private jeep were killed when the vehicle fell into a 200 metre deep precipice at Sohbar, about 70 km. from Shillong.

— R. P. Khanna, IAS, has been appointed secretary to the commission for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

**13** The All India Kissan Sangarsh Samiti organised rally in protest against the allotment of surplus land to Harijans in Kanjhwala village. 1000 farmers including 30 women courted arrest.

— Maduri University, renamed as Kamraj University by an ordinance on 22nd July 1978 has been changed again as Maduri Kamraj University.

**14** According to a FAO release, Dr. B. R. Sen, former director general of Food and Agriculture Organisation has been honoured by FAO for his service for the poor and hungary of the world. Dr. Sen is portrayed on an agricola medal of FAO.

— An agreement was signed between FICCI and the Nigerian Association to set up an Indian-Nigeria Joint Business Council to provide for exchange of business missions and market information.

**15** Col. Geni Stane Potocar, Chief of the General Staff Yugoslav Peoples' Army, arrived in New Delhi on a five-day visit.

— The first All-India Frontier Buddha Sammelan opened in New Delhi. The three-day sammelan, to find out the ways of preserving the Buddhist culture and religion was attended by about 200 Buddhist monks and delegates from Himalayan frontier areas.

— Holders Mahan Bagan and Ararat Eravan of the Saviet Union become joint winners of the IFA Shield after their encounter in the final which ended in a 2-2 draw in Calcutta.

— K. R. Pattabhiram, former editor and publisher of "The Deccan Chroncile" died in Hyderabad. He was 56.

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**September 17** Indian delegation led by Soli Sorabjee, Additional Solicitor-General of India left for Geneva to attend the U.N. Seminar on National and Local Institutions for the promotion of human rights. Seminar began on 18 September.

**18** The External Affairs Minister A. B. Vajpayee arrived in Kabul on a three day official visit to Afghanistan.

— World Bank approved a marine fisheries project of the Andhra Pradesh Government for loan assistance. The Rs. 31.36 crores project includes construction of fishing harbours at Vishakapatnam, Kakinada, Nizampatnam.

**19** Rest of India retained the Irani cup with a convincing wicket victory over Ranji champions Karnataka shortly before tea on the final day af the four day match played in Bangalore.

**20** A notification was issued by the Central Govt. according to which the Child Marriage Restraint Act as amended early this year increasing the minimum age of marriage from 15 years to 18 years for girls and 18 to 21 years for boys will come into force with effect from 1st October.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai inaugurated Asia's largest tool room and training centre at the Wazirpur industrial complex in Delhi. The centre has been set up at a cost of Rs. 5.25 crores in collaboration with the Government of Denmark. The purpose of the TRTC is to train youngmen in tool making and designing and to produce high quality tools, fixtures and moulds of small industries.

— Two railway employees were killed on the spot and 45 injured when the 30 Up Howarah-Bombay express collided with a goods train at Asangaon station on the Bombay-Igatpuri section of the general railways.

— P. N. Dhar was appointed as Assistant Secretary General for Research and Analysis in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

— President appointed Justice Mohan Lal Joshi a judge of the Rajasthan High Court as its chief justice from 23 September.

**21** Archbishop Simon Pimenta was formally installed as Archbishop of Bombay at a solemn and impressive ceremony.

— A delegation from the Soviet Ministry of Light Industry led by Dr. Shirokov, arrived in New Delhi for talks with the Indian Officials of new forms of cooperation and assistance in the Light Industry.

— G. N. Sahi, a former general manager of the Hindustan Times Group of paper died at Muzzaffarpur in Bihar. He had served

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as Chairman of the Indian Eastern Newspaper Society and the Adult Bureau of circulation.

**September 21** Jagdish Joshi a young Gujarati poet of standing and educationist died. He was 46.

**22** Food and Agriculture Organisation has approved a 3.9 million dollar grant in emergency food aid for the relief of the flood victimes in north-east India. This was announced by FAO.

— Japan extended grant aid of 500 million Yen (Rs. 2.17 crores) to India for the current financial year. The amount will be used for importing cement from there.

— Officially announced that Roop Krishna Anand, Ambassador of India (designate) to Argentina has been concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Uruguay with residence in Buenos Aires.

— Vetean freedom fighter and founder of Mazdoor Mahasabha Juggan Khan died in Ujjain.

**23** Bhupati Mohan Sen, a noted educationist and mathematician and former Principal of the Presidency Collage, Calcutta died. He was 90.

— The Government constituted a 3-member board of arbitration with Justice J. S. Bedi as chairman to consider the main issues relating to dearness allowance payable to central government employees. The other member are G. Ramanujam, Member representative staff side and D. S. Nakra member representing official side.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai inaugurated the two-day conference of Chief Minister. While inaugurating the conference Mr. Desai called for eteranal vigilance and side it was the price to be paid not only for safeguarding liberty, but also for maintaining law and order. He highlighted the need for streamlining the information machinery and making use of it in taking prompt action. If it was known that the offenders would not be able to escape the clutches of law, this itself would act as a deterrent. The subject discussed were review of communal situation, atrocities on Harijans, student and labour unrest, activities of extremist and other agitations, cow control frequent incidents of firing, crime in railways, policy regarding licensing of fire arms, growth of illict fire arms explosives, police morale, its welfare and discipline also formed part of the agenda. Mr. Desai told the Chief Ministers that law and order was essentially the responsibility of the states and eentre would not interfere with the administration of states in handling their law and order problems. The conference ended on 24 September. Reflecting the consensus at the conference Prime Minister Mr. Desai declared that the law and order situation in the country was not alarming though there was no room for complacency.

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**September 23** B. K. Vora, Chairman of Dena Bank, died.

— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation inaugurated a one day conference of state Ministers for Minor Irrigation and Command Area Development.

24 External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee left for New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly session.

— Indavadan Chimanlal Shah, a freedom fighter and constructive worker, died. He was 60,

— President N. Sanjiva Reddy laid the foundation stone of Sri Dashmesh Academy at the foothills of the Senic Shivalik range of Tarapur, six km. from Anandpur Sahib.

— Prime Minister, Morarji Desai inaugurated in New Delhi, golden jubilee celebrations of the Indian Medical Association. Speaking at the celebration, Mr. Desai asked practioners of modern medicine to develop their science to help people look after themselves and not become dependent on doctors.

— Union Industries Minister, George Fernandes, arrived in Kathmandu on a three-day visit to Nepal. He had talk on Indo-Nepal cooperation on joint ventures in the industrial sector.

25 Deputy Chief Minister of Kashmir, Mirza Afzal Beg submitted his resignation in resonse to a request from Chief Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah. On 29th September, Mirza Afzal Beg was expelled from the National Conference Party.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai presided over the meeting of the Southern Zonal Council at Madras.

26 E. Johan Jacob, Kerala's Food Minister, died in St. Louis hospital in Huston, USA following heart surgery.

— India and Pakistan took an other step in improving mutual relations when it was announced that they would set up consular posts in Karachi and Bombay respectively.

— Ramkrishnan Dalmia, industrialist and philonthropist, died. He was 85. Founder of the Dalmia-Jain group of industries, Mr. Dalmia presided over many religious, educational and social forums and helped thousands of people in distress all his life, He was a close freind of Mahtama Gandhi.

— Twelve persons were killed and 56 other injured in a clash between Nirankaris and Sikhs in a police firing in Kanpur. According to a report, the clash took place when Sikhs forcibly entered Nirankari Bhavan at Govindpuri where the followers of Baha Gurbachan Singh had gathered for a satsang. On 27 Punjab government banned the entry of the Chief of

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the Nirankari Mission, Baba Gurbachan Singh into the State for six months with immediate effect. On 28 September, Punjab Government imposed censorship on all newspapers published from Jullunder in regard to news about Sikh-Nirankari difference which might disturb peace and communal harmony.

**September 27** Dr. Tulsi Mehar Shreshta dedicated Gandhian and noted social worker died in Kathmandu. He was 82.

— India and Hungary signed an accord at Budapest on Co-operation between information organisation and mass communication media, complete with a working plan embodying practical details.

— Patiam Gopalam (CPI-M) member of the Kerala Assemly died at Cannanore. He was 42.

— President Sanjiva Raddy inaugurated the UNICEF greeting cards sales compaign for 1978 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

— Raja Ramchand, erstwhile ruler of the Chenani principal in Jammu region, died. He was a cousin of the late Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir.

— Reported that India's S.D. Deshmukh in one of the 15 voted directors of the International Monetary Funds' prestigious executive committee in the world economic body's regular biannual election.

**28** Dr. P.V. Mandlik, Janata Party leader and former socialist MLA died in Bombay. He was a member of Bombay Municipal corporation of many years.

— President, N. Sanjiva Reddy while inaugurating the international conference for the liberation of Southern Africa against apartheid, pledged India's unqualified support to liberation movement.

— Vice-President B.D. Jatti inaugurated the 9th International Congress of International Society for Heart Research. Some 400 delegates from 20 countries attended the conference. The conference was held to highlight the cellular basis of the function and disrases of the heart.

— The Union Government appointed a central Standing Committee for tackling the problems of unorganised labour in the rural sector. The Labour Minister heads the 42 member committee.

**29** The Information and Broadcasing Minister L. K. Advani arrived in East Berlin on a official visit.

— India and South Korea signed a cultural pact.

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**September 29** The Union Government accepted the recommendations of the third and final report of the Jagmohan Reddy commission in regard to charge against the former Defence Minister Bansi Lal.

**30** Madhavrao Mully (67) former general secretary of the RSS, died in Pune. Mr. Mulley was the Key architect of the RSS in northern India. He has been a whole time worker (Pracharak) of the organisation.

— Sadhu Charan Mohan ty, veteran freedom fighter and CPI leader of Orissa died. He was 80.

— A two-day convention scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes MPs of six northern States and the Union Territory of Delhi was inaugurated by the Union Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram.

**October 1** Eighty-Eight persons were killed and 20 injured five of them seriously when a private bus carrying them skidded off the road and fell into a flooded ditch near Basirhat in North 24 Parganas District.

— Former Olympian footballer Moin (56) died in Hyderabad Syed Khaja Moinuddin, popularly was known as Moin.

— India won the first one-day International Limited-over cricket match against Pakistan at Quetta.

— Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation announced two awards of Rs. 1 Lakh each to two life-long Gandhians, Jugatram Ganapatram Dave (87) and Satish Chandra Dasgupta (98) both of whom are exceptionally active in the Services of commenman even today.

— L. R. Viswanathan, a noted Tamil Scholar and Novelist died in Madras.

— A nine-member Kenyan trade delegation arrived in New Delhi on an eight-day visit to India to explore the Chances of Industrial Cooperation with India.

— Vijaya Amritraj of India won the singles crown at the Mexican Tennis open Championship and teamed with his brother Anand to win the doubles.

— World Bank President Robert S. Mcnamara arrived in New Delhi to attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Ford Foundation beginning on 3rd October.

**2** First National conference of the Confederation of Newspaper and News agency employees started Chitrakoot.

— India launched a massive Rs. 200 Crore programme of adult literacy on a level never before attempted in the world.

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**October 2** More than 16 people died while 11 have been reported missing in a boat accident in the Narmada at Hoshangabad.

— A prevention of Blindness week was launched by the National Society for Prevention of Blindness (India) throughout the country. The central theme of the compaign is prcserve the sight of Children.

— Tamil Nadu Gavernor promulgated an Ordinance which provided imprisonment for life, banishment from one's place of residence for a period not exceeding two years and non-bailable arrest are among the stringent measures for stricter enforcement for the prohibition Act. The Ordinance which came into force on 3rd Oct. has already received the President's assent.

**3** A 10 member girls expedition from Calcutta, led by Miss. Rama Sen Gupta and sponsored by the Himalayan Association climbed the 6,344-Metre White Sail,popularly known as Dharam Pura.

— Railway Minister Madhu Dandavate announced at a press conference that the Rail and India Technical & Economic Services Ltd. (RLTES) have been commissioned to give massive managerial support to the Nigeria Railway system.

**4** Janata parliamentary party started its 3 day session in New Delhi. Janata party in Parliament seemed to be lining up behind Morarji Desai, while Raj Narain and his friends used the Kanti Affair and the Governments refusal to set up an inquiry commission and Mr. Desai's statement in nuclear policy and sikkim to attack clearly in majority hit back saying that open outbursts by Raj Narain and his collegues against the leadership han done a great deal of harm to the party. On 5th Oct. the discussion in inner party affairs was muted though there were occasional outbursts of attack on Prime Minister and former Home Minister Charan Singh. The dominant mood of the party was however, brought out when the meeting approved with applause a motion moved by Prof. Samar Guha that the discussion on the conduct of members he brought to an end and the meeting took up Socio-Economic policy issue.

**5** Chief Minister of Rajasthan B. S.Shekhawat, commissioned a Rs. 5.84 crore special steel manufacturing plant in the Vishwakarma Industrial Estate.

— Gen. O. P. Malhotra, Chief of Army Staff, left on a Ten-day goodwill visit to the United Kingdom.

— Meeting of the working group of the National Development Council (NDC)was held in New Delhi.

— Ramanlal Sheth, founder editor of "Jansatta" and "Loksatta" local Gujarati dailies, died in Ahmedabad.

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October 5 Mrs. Indira Gandhi announced in Bombay that she would contest the Chikmagalur by election to the Lok Sabha due next month. On 6th October she filed her nomination papers.

— Officially reported that India has won 14 gold and bronze medals in the recent world postage stamps exibition held in Prague from 8 to 17 September, to commemorate the 6th anniversary of the first Czechoslowakian postage stamp.

— Six persons were killed and several injured in Aligarh when violent clashes between two groups of people erupted in town, Curfew was imposed in the town. According to reports received on 6th Oct. death toll rose to 10 people.

— World's second test tube baby was claimed to have been born in Calcutta at 11. 14 am. on 3rd Oct. according to a group of 3 Scientists. The Scientists are Dr. Saroj Kanti Bhattacharya, Prof. Sunit Mukherjee and Dr. Subhash Mukherjee.

6 Dr. C. Gopalan, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, has been awarded the coveted "Dhanwantari Award" for being the outstanding medical man of the year 1978. Award was presented on 29th October.

— External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee left for New York to address the U. N. General Assembly Session on 10th October.

— Officially reported that Kunwar Gajendra Singh, Joint Secretary in the Economic Division of the External Affairs Ministry, has been appointed Ambassador to Senegal.

7 Sales Tax Abolition convention was inaugurated by the Finance Minister, H. M. Patel.

— Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award for 1977 were announced. The award winners are Dr. T. C. Anand (Biological Science), Prof. M. S. Rajhuna than (Mathematical Sciences), Prof. Mihir Choudhery and Prof. S. Ranganathan (Chemical Sciences) and Dr. K. L. Kailla and Dr. Subir Kumar Ghosh (Earth Sciences).

— Banarashi Das, a member of Calcutta district council of the communist party of India, succumbed to stab injuries.

8 Bengal won the National Football Championship for Santosh trophy which a second half solitary goal victory over Goa in the final play in Srinagar.

— The Chief of the Neval Staff, Admiral Jal Cursetji, accompanied by his wife left New Delhi on a 10 day goodwill visit to U.S.A.

— Janata Party General Secretary Nanaji Deshmukh announced his decision to renounce party and power politics from 11th Octo-

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ber, his birthday, coinciding with Jayaprakash Narayan and said he would not accept any office or post either in the Government or in the organisation thereafter.

**October 8** Japan will give 8 million Yen (Rs. 24.59 crores) as commodity loan to India during the current financial year. The amount is repayable over 30 years, including 10 years grace period with 3 percent interest. The credit can be utilised for importing machinery, components, spares, steel, fertilisers, and machinery and equipment for the Bombay high offshore development programme.

— A meeting of Chief Executive of Banking institutions was convened by the Prime Minister Morarji Desai. It set up five working groups for extending easily credit at different rate of interest to weaker sections, small farmers, cottage industry, sick units and employment promoting projects.

— Vishnu Dutt (61) a Janata Party member of the Delhi Metropolitan Council died. A vereran Gandhian, Mr. Dutt was the founder member of the citizens for Democracy founder by Japrakash Narayan During emergency he was one of the signaturies to the letter sent by the late Bhimsen Sechar to the then Prime Minister.

9 The AIADMK Ministry rn Pondicherry, headed by Shri S. Ramaswamy has been expanded with the swearing in of four new Minister. The new Minister are Siraprakasam, V. M. C. Vardapillai, N. Venkadaswamy and S. Sousairaj.

— 18th convention of the World Christian Endeavour Union was opened by the Prime Minister Morarji Desai in New Delhi. Over 3,000 delegates from 80 countries attended the Union.

— Union Cabinet appointed a high level committee to help solve the problems of the shipping industry, abolished dual pricing for aluminuim and sanctioned subsidy for cement factories using energy generated by their captive power plants.

10 Addressing the U. N. General Assembly, India's Foreign Minister unveiled a Six-point programme for achieving a general disarmament under effective international control.

— Rohini Khadilkar, 15, of Bombay made chess history when she emerged winner in the All India Chess Tournament which was played in Hospet.

— Fifteen women and children were killed when a tractor trailor carrying them overturned and fell into a readside ditch on the Hasua—Narhar road, 15 Km. from Nawadah.

— India's Prakash Padukone defeated World Champion (Badminton) Flemming Delfs (Denmark).

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**October 10** Nettoor P. Damodaran, former member of Parliament from Kerala, died.

— Nine persons were killed and 41 injured when the 316 Miraj-Pune passenger train collided with a goods train between Takari and Bhavnagar on the South Central Railways main Miraj-Pune line.

— Twenty six people were killed when a boat overturned in the Jaggar dam waters near Hindon, in Sawai Madhopur district.

— United Nations honoured Jawaharlal Nehru for his fight against racial discrimination, The award was received by Mrs. Nayantra Sahgal, neice of Nehru.

**14** Air Commondore J.C. Verma, a distinguished fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force died. Arecipient of the distinguished Flying cross, Air Commondore Verma has seen action in world war II on the Burma front.

— Film Divisions documentory "Chitrakathi" has bagged the second major award at the 24th Asian Film Festival at Sidney. Mani Kaul directed the film.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai opened the Institute of Kidney disceases in the Civil Hospital at Ahmedabad.

— Twenty three passengers were killed and 45 injured when a tourist bus in which they were travelling plunged 15 meters down after hitting a wall in horsely Hills.

— The Vice President, B.D. Jatti opened a three day National Sanskrit Education Convention in Jaipur with a call to the assembled scholars from all over India to Suggest simplification of Sanskrit education and mould it in line with modern requirements.

**15** Vice President, B. D. Jatti released a commemorative stamp in honour of Vallathal Naryana Menon the poet Laureate of Kerala, on the occassion of his birth centenary.

**16** Justice V. S. Deshpande was sworn-in as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

— Kannada film "Ghatashraddha" won two awards at the 27th International film week which was held in Mannheim.

— R.D. Sathe, India's Ambassador to France, has been appointed the countries envoy to china to succeed K.R. Narayanan who is retiring.

**17** Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram inaugurated a five day conference of army commanders.

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**October 17** The International League for Animal Rights conferred upon Morarji Desai the title of Lord chancellor.

**18** Reserve Bank made a downword revision of Rupee in relation to sterling by 1.6. per cent.

— Professor R. Viswanathan of the vallabhai Patel chest Institute of Delhi was awarded the Carlo Forlanini gold medal at an impressive ceremony at the historic castle of St. Angelo in Italy in recogniation of his valuable contribution to tuberculosis and chest diseases.

— Twenty year old Preeti Koipikar of India was adjudged the most talented girl at the 1978 Miss Asia Beauty Contest. She also won the award for the best National costume.

**19** Narian Das Khanna (98), a veteran freedom fighter, who served jail terms during the Martial Law days of 1919 after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and again in 1942 during the quit India movement, died.

**20** An Air Force training plane which was on a training flight crashed in the Mej. river near valda village in the Upleta police station area. Its pilot Fl. Lt. G. Krishnan and a 28 year old farm labourer was killed.

**21** The first cricket test match between India and Pakistan played in Faisalabad ended in a draw.

— India and Soviet Union agreed to collaborate in setting of joint ventures in third countries for the production of drugs.

— The Rajasthan emergency excesses inquiry authority held the former Chief Minister Harideo Joshi guilty of taking over the educational institutions run by Adarsh Vidya Mandir Prabandh Samiti of Jaipur with malafide intentions.

— Sant Kaikadi Maharaj died. He was 81 Born at Mandayagan village in Ahmed Nagar District, he left home at the age of 10 and took to a life of wandering in the service of the poor. He took to sanyas in 1926. Author of several books on social awakening, he was imprisoned by the Nizam during the Arya Samaj agitation in 1957.

— Shambhu Nath Shukla, former Chief Minister of Vindhya Pradesh died. He was 75.

**22** Peorao Patil, member of the Rajya Sabha and President of the vidarbha regional committee of congress—I died. He was 63,

— Well known novelist Narayan Sita Ram Phadke, whose romantic themes set a new trend in Marathi literature, died.

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He was 84. A recipient of Padma Bhusan in 1965, Mr. Phadke had just completed his 74th novel.

**October 23** 56 people courted arrest in Kanjhawala village in North Delhi as part of their agitation against allotment of 120 are plot to the Harijans.

— An agreement for the purchase of 24 thousand tonnes of Indian rice by Mauritius was signed in New Delhi,

— Jagan Mohan Reddy Commission presented a 820 page report to the government on the Nagarwala case relating to the removal of Rs. 60 lakh from the State Bank on 24th March'71.

**24** The Chief Minister of Haryana Devi Lal publicly disowned responsibility for acts of his Son Om Parkash who was detected carrying contraband goods at Delhi Airport on return from a foreign tour on 26th Oct'78. Om Prakash resigned from the General Secretaryship of the Haryana unit of Janta Party.

— 9 people were killed when a jeep crashed into a mini bus on the old Patna by pass road.

**25** Bhawani Shankar Pandya, Arya Samaj leader, died. He was 81.

— The Congress party headed for another split in less than year, as a Section of its leadership revolted against the Parliamentary Board's decision to oppose the Janta Party candidate in the Chikmagalur by election while the Kerala Chief Minister A.K. Antony announced his decision to step down in protest, two members of the working committee Dr. Karan Singh and Chandrajit yadav handed their resignation letters to the party President. A group of 15 MPs expressed their shock and indignation at the Boards decision but wanted Mr. Antony to continue in office to carry the fight from within on 26th October Swarn singh rushed K. Brahnanda Reddi to Trivendrum in a last minute bid to persuade Chief Minister A. K. Antony to reconsider his decision to resign.

— Railway Minister Madhu Dandavate flagged off ceremonially at Howrah Station, Nilgiri Express the 6th Super fast classes train. The train travels ever the 2,044 KM on the Howrah Jammu route curtailing the present timings by about 15 hours.

**26** Punjab confirmed their supremacy in women's Hockey when they won the National Senior title for the 9th year in succession including three times as joint winners, defeating Universities 5-3 in tie breaker in the final played in Jabalpur.

— Sri Lanka President J.R. Jayewardene accompanied by his wife arrived in Madras on a two week visit to Undia. On 27th October Mr. Jayewardene arrived in New Delhi where he

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had an hour long talk with the Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

**October 27** P.K. Vasudevan Nair of the C.P.I. was elected as leader of the six party coalition in the Kerala State. Earlier A.K. Antony submitted his resignation to the Governor.

29 About 30 shops were destroyd and 50 damaged in a fire which broke out in Gandhi Market, Sadar Bazar, Delhi, Good worthseveral lakhs were burnt in the fire but no casulty was reported,

— 15 day long conference of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, hosted by All India Radio, ended.

— Four persons were killed and 16 others injured when a car carrying a marriage party collided with a private bus at Amia.

— The Government announced measures to help maintain cotton prices at a reasonable level throughout the year and protect farmers from exploitation.

— India, with an aggregate total of 145 points, emerged overall champions in the two day. Indo-Sri Lanka-Bangladesh swimming meet which ended in Trivandrum.

— The Government has reconstituted the Company Law Advisory Committee for a period of two years with effect from 1st Nov. 1978. The members are Lala Charat Ram, B.L. Kabra, V. Kalyanaraman and N.G. Chaudhary.

— Kalipada Bhattacharjee (68) a well known literateur of Bengal died.

— Kerala's new Council of Ministers headed by P.K. Vasudevan Nair (CPI) was sworn-in.

— Prof. Vasant Ramji Khanolkar, Internationally recognised Scientist and a pioneer in medical research expecially in cancer and leprosy, died. Prof. Khanolkar who was the Vice-Chancellor of Bombay University (1961-65) was a Padma Vhushan award recepient.

30 A Cabinet Committee was set up by the Government to ensure that the sagar mills in northern India, principally Uttar Pradesh, begin crushing on time (Nov. 1) and cane growers interests are protected.

— Rupee has been devalued in terms of pound sterling by nearly 2.14 percent. The reserve Bank announced a New middle rate of Rs. 16.35 per pound as against Rs. 16 hitherto. The new exchange rates fixed by the R.B.I. are :-buying Rs. 16-30 and selling Rs. 16.40 per pound sterling.

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October 30 — Tulmohan Ram, a former Congress member of the Sabha, who was convicted alongwith two others in the Pondicherry import licence scandal case was sentenced to a total of five a half years simple imprisonment on five counts by Delhi special Judge O.P. Singla.

— Vice President B.D. Jatti opened the Asian Region conference of the International Union of Family Organization on family as a unit of welfare in national Planning in Delhi.

— Union Government has accepted the main recommendations of the Kothari Committee on recruitment policy and selection methods encluding holding of a single civil service examination for the Indian Administrative Services and Central Class I and II Services.

— A. shankar Alva former Co-operation Minister in the Devaraj's Ministry died. He was 73.

November 1 — The Assam Chief Minister Gopal Borbora, flagged off the supper fast Tinsukia Mail linking Assam and the North-eastern region with New Delhi.

— Rama Devi (68), spiritualist and founder of the Sakthi Mission near Mangalore, died.

— Gangadhar Dandavate (65) former general secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha, died,

— K. K. Kaut (57), charged affaires and the first secretary at the Indian Embassy in Morocco died,

— Mrs. T. Vedakumari, 49, former MP from Andhra, died.

— Pakistan won the second cricket test against India by eight wickets.

3 — Announced in Delhi that Gen. T. N. Raina will be India's next High Commissioner to Canada. He will succeed Mahbood Ahmad.

4 — First Jamnalal Bajaj awards were presented by the President to Jugatram Dave and Satish Chandra Das Gupta, both associates of Mahatma Gandhi, at a function in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

— Petroleum Minister H. N. Bahuguna began a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, to further plans for closer industrial cooperation between the two countries.

5 — Dr. D. S. Kothari, a physicist of international repute and former Chairman of the university Grants Commission (UGC) has

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been awarded the G. D. Parikh Memorial Award for 1978 for his outstanding contribution in the field of education.

**November 5** Four women and three children were run over by a goods train, 50 km. from Bhilai on the Durga-Rajhara branch line of the South-eastern Railways.

— India and Tunisia signed a 3 year cultural agreement in Tunis. Starting from 1979, the programme provides for an exchange between the two countries in the field of education, information and culture besides technical knowledge.

— Seven persons were killed and 35 others were injured when an Hamirpur-bound Himachal road Transport bus fell 300 meters down a ravine at a point 14 km. from Mandi.

— Three persons, including a police driver, were killed and at least 35 policemen were injured in day-long clashes between the police and the Akalis protesting against the holding of the three day convention of the Nirankaris at India Gate in New Delhi. On 6th November Akali Working Committee decided to recall Surjeet Singh Barnala, Agriculture Minister and Dhanna Singh Gulshan. Minister of State for Education from the Union Ministry in protest against the police firing and other acts against the anti-Nirankari demonstration in Delhi. Howeuer the anti-Nirankari agitation in capital continued, though on the reduced scale. On 7th November Mr. Barnala and Mr. Gulshan resigned from the Government in deference to the directives given by the Akali Dal Working committee.

**6** Shahryar Khan Parwaz, 47, an Urdu poet died.

— A two-member Nigerian railway delegation arrived in New Delhi on a 10-day visit to India at the invitation of the Chairman of Railway Board.

**7** Dr. Jivraj Narayan Mehta, the first Chief Minister of Gujarat died. He was 91.

**8** Mrs. Indira Gandhi former Prime Minister of India was declared elected to the Lok Sabha from Chikmagalur by the convincing margin of 77,333 votes defeating her nearest rival Veerendra Patil, ex former Chief Minister of Karnataka. Polling was held on 5th November.

**9** Government promulgated an Ordinance enabling it to take over management of Sugar mills for up to three years, if they do not begin crashing cane by 15th November or have more than 10% arrear of payments to cane-growers for the 1978-79 crashing season.

— "Mathrubhoomi" Chief Editor, K. P. Kesava Menon, died. He was 93.

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**November 9** Swami Dharmananda Vidyamartanda, a noted vedic commentator, died. He was 79. Swami Dharmanandaji was among the first disciples of Swami Dharmananda, was conferred the highest degree of the Gurukul Kangri University "Vidyamarthanda" for his contribution to vedic literature.

**10** India and nepal signed an agreement, according to which Bihar Electricity Board will supply 5 MW of power to Nepal from 15th November.

— Soviet and Indian Space Scientists signed a protocol on the launching of the second earth satellite by India in cooperation with the Soviet Union. The protocol was signed in Moscow.

— Swami Gurcharan Das, president of the All-India Sadhu Samaj, died.

— Union Cabinet decided to set up a Brahmaputra River Board.

— V. Shajanand, 55, well-known Telugu writer and producer of All India Radio, Hyderabad, died.

**11** A 90-year-old freedom fighter Chatuhari Siddha alias Bambaba, died. Mr. Siddha, who was a bachelor got the name of "Bambaba" following his arrest in a bomb case soon after his escape from Jalianwalaha Bagh when the police (under British rule) opened fire there.

— K. B. Tandon, former Director of Publicity, External Affairs Ministry, died. Mr. Tandon was attached to the UN mission for a number of years. He had also worked in the Indian Embassies in Tokyo, Cairo, Peking and London.

— The Mizoram Assembly was dissolved and the Union Territory brought under President's rule by an Ordinance, following a split in the ruling People's Conference on 10the November and political instability since mid-october, jeopardising Chief Minister Brig. T. Sailo's six-month old Government.

— Mool Raj Tandon, a veteran freedom fighter and associate of Bhagat Sing, died.

— Syed Modi of UP won the Junior National badminton title defeating Trivandrum college student no. 2 seed U. Vimal Kumar 15-6, 15-1. Top seeded Ameeta Kulkarni of Bombay, retained the Junior girls singles title beating Radhika Bose, also of Bombay 14-4, 11-2, in the finals.

**12** The Information and Broadcasting Minister, L. K. Advani, left for Paris to attend the Unesco biennial conference which is debating the draft declaration on mass media.

— M. L. Mittal, a trade union leader was shot dead.

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**November 12** Russia's Volgo Kalinin lifted football trophy for 1978. They beat Munich's Bayerischer Club by one goal to none in the finals played in New Delhi.

— The Union Territory of Pondicherry was brought under President's rule and its Assembly desolved through a Presidential order under Section 51 of the Union Territories Act.

**13** The International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, announced the approval of a $ 190-million credit for Indian Railways.

— Nichidatsu Fujit of Japan was declared the winner of the 1978 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding.

— Noted Hindi writer and journalist of Uttar Pradesh hills, Dr. Pitamber Trivedi, died Dr. Trivedi (75) author of many books, was also a reputed poet and had composed over 500 poems.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai presented the UNESCO award for 1978 for outstanding work in the field of literacy to Mrs. Durgabai Deshmukh at a function at the Andhra Mahila Sabha.

— P. V. Akilandam' a Tamil Writer and recipient of the Jnanpith award was among the winners of the 14th Soviet Land Nehru award as announced in New Delhi.

**14** Dr. C. L. Katial, 82, died in London. Dr. Katial was the first director-general of the State-Employees Insurance Corporation of free India.

— A four days camp of the Janata Party's important leaders was held in Ujjain.

**15** An agreement on scientific cooperation between India and Kenya was signed.

— Announced that effective from first December, the issue price of central pool wheat will be Rs 130 per quintal instead of Rs 125 at present.

— Indian bank signed a technical assistance agreement in Jakarta with an Indonesian bank to assist expansion of its operations including development of small scale industries and joint ventures in Indonesia.

— A naval survey ship, INS Nirdeshak, the second of the three vessels being built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited was launched in Calcutta.

**16** Over 20,000 port and dock workers began their indefinite strike in Bombay in response to a call by the All India Port and Dock

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Workers Federation strike was also resorted to by a majority of nearly 50,000 dockers. On 25th cargo handling operations in Cochin port resumed after a break of seven days when striking port and dock workers reported for duty. According to reports rceeived on 26th November, barring a little improvement in the berthing of ships in Calcutta and Haldia ports, there appeared to be no change in the dock strike situation in Bombay, Madras and Goa.

**November 17** A British mission representing major hardware engineering goods industries arrived in New Delhi to explore the scope for British collaboration with Indian Comanies in the construction of new generation fertiliser plants.

— The Centre has decided to introduce a new scheme of civil services examinations (for IAS, IFS, IPS from 1979. Instead of three categories of examinations, there will now be a single examination to all categories of civil service posts. The upper age limit for the examination has been raised by 2 years i.e. from 26 to 28.

— India and Czechoslovakia signed a two-day cultural exchange programme which envisages exchange of experts in a large number of fields, including education art and culture and mass media.

— Prime Minister, Morarji Desai inaugurated the National Small Industries fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

**18** Surjit Singh Barnala and Dhanna Singh Gulshan, Akali Ministers in the Central Cabinet, withdrew their resignation following an amicable settlement between the Akali Dal and the Janata Party on the Nirankari issue.

— Dhiren Ganguly, one of the poineers of the Bengal film industry died in Calcutta. He was 87.

— Rupee has been upgraded in terms of pound sterling by 1.24 percent following the revision of the selling and buying rates of the pound sterling by the Reserve Bank of India.

**19** Fourteen people were killed and many injured in a bus accident about 90 km from Imphal.

— India and Cuba signed an agreement to formalise co-operation between them on science and technology. In accordance with its terms, 24 sceintists would be exchanged between them.

— An Indian Air Force transport plan crashed just before touchdown at the Leo airfield, killing all 77 defence personnel on board and a civilian on the grouud.

— Pakistan scored a dramatic eight-wicket victory over India in

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the third and final cricket test played in Karachi. Pakistan thus won the series against India having already won a match and drawn another.

**November 20** The International Development Association (IDA) has granted a $ 190 million loan to the Indian Railways to assist the $ 459 million modernisation and maintenance project, which is a part of $ 3,750 million five-year plan of the railways, launched this year to be completed by 1982-83.

— President N. Sanjiva Reddy, laid the foundation stone for the Rs. 3.68 crore irrigation project at Anjunem, about 60 km from Panaji.

— Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who was elected from the Chikmaglur constituency, took her oath in the Lok Sabha. She took the oath in Kannada,the language of her constituency.

— Several thousand workers took part in a peaceful rally organised by the Central Trade Union Organisation at Boat Club (New Delhi) to demand withdrawal of the controversial Industrial Relations Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha during its last session.

— Winter session of the Lok Sabha started.

**21** Dhirendra Majumdar, a close associate of Gandhiji, died in Varanasi.

— The Lok Sabha approved the Repealing and Amendment Bill, already passed by the Upper House.

— Lok Sabha passed a Bill to take over Mokameh unit of the Britannia Engineering Company and the undertakings of the Arther Butler and Company.

— A nine-member Polish Parliamentary delegation led by Stanislaw Gucooa, Speaker of the Polish Parliament, arrived on a six-days visit to India.

— Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has beenfound guilty of "breach of privilege and contempt of the House" by the Privileges Committee of the Lok Sabha, which has left the nature of punishment to be meted out to her to the collective visdom of the House. The report of the committee was presented to the House by its chairman, Samar Guha.

— Twenty-nine-year-old star opening batsman Sunil Gavaskar was named India's captain for the six-test home series against the touring West Indies team.

**22** A Bill providing for summary trial and augmenting the man-

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power to deal with immoral traffic in girls and women was passed by the Lok Sabha.

**November 22** An India-Pakistan "Prem Sabha" (goodwill association) has been set up in Karachi.

**23** Lok Sabha Speaker K. S. Hegde has nominated three members of the House to the Press Council which is now being reconstituted. The nominees were C. M. Stephen, leader of the Opposition, H. V. Kamath and Amrit Nahata.

— Raja Chimbulkar of the Janata Party was declared elected as the 52nd Mayor of Bombay.

**24** Fifteen people were killed and 48 villages in Ramanathapuram district were undated by the cyclone which battered Sri. Lanka and crossed over into Tamil Nadu.

— Italian Foreign Minister, Arnaldo Forlani arrived in New Delhi on a three-day goodwill visit.

**25** The Director General of Civil Aviation, B. S. Gidwani was appointed India's representative on the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization. He will take over his new assignment in the first week of December at Montreal.

— President Sanjiva Reddy formally launched a massive experiment in development of the rural economy and the uplift of the poorest of the poor in the villages being attempted by the Deendayal Research Institute with the Gramodaya project.

— The first national Arya Samaj convention concluded in Rewari with a resolve to give this reformist movement a revolutionary streak and help in the Socio-economic transformation of the country.

**26** A UP Janata MLA, Sheoraj Singh, was shot dead.

**27** Father Charles P. Saldanha, 86, eminent educationist, died.

— India and Soviet Union agreed to a new exchange rate of Rs.10 to a roule for settlement of all existing and future credit agreements and commercial transactions.

— Rajya Sabha passed a Bill to provide for authorised translations of the Constitution in Hindi and other languages specified in the Eighth Schedule..

— Supreme Court dismissed a writ petition praying for quashing of the report of the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal submitted to the Government on 16th August.

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**November 28** Eugene Andrews, president of the Delhi branch of the All India Anglo-Indian Association, died. He was 77.

— Preet Mohan Singh Malik, Director in the Ministry of Commerce, has been appointed Ambassador to Cuba in succession to Barun Kumar Basu.

**29** Ajit Kumar Mehta, the Janata Party candidate was declared elected from Samastipur by a margin of 26,864 votes in the parliamentary by-election, defeating Mrs. Tarkeshwari Sinha, the Congress-I candidate.

— The celebrated allopathic turned-homeopathic physician, Dr. J. N. Majumdar, died. He was 72.

— The Government finalised an agreement with the three non-striking port and dock workers federations and the Bombay Port Trust Employees Union on the main demands of the port and dock workers of major ports.

— A sophisticated beach-landing craft, the first warship built by the state-owned Goa Shipyard was launched by Mrs. Cursetji, wife of Naval Chief.

— Supreme Court directed Mrs. Indira Gandhi to make a statement on December 8th before Delhi's Chief Metropolitan Magistrate under Section 313 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the cases arising from her refusal to testify before the Shah Commission.

**30** Jairam Singh (68) former MLA of UP died.

— The President of India has appointed R. N. Haldipur as the Lt. Governor of Arunachal Pradesh to succeed K. A. A. Raja.

**December 1** Eleven members of the two marriage parties were killed and 19 injured, when their trucks fell in a khud about six km. from Simla.

— In its reply to the Presidential reference, the seven-member constitution bench of the Supreme Court has declared by a 6-1 majority that the private members' Bill to set up special courts for emergency offences would be valid if three procedural changes were made in it. These procedural changes would ensure, first that only sitting and not retired-High Court judge would be appointed to the special courts, second, that such appointments would be made with the concurrence of—not simply in consultation with—the Chief Justice and third, that the accused would be able to apply to the Supreme Court for a transfer of his case from one special court to another.

— India and Soviet Union concluded a protocol outlining the

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framework for long term co-operation in diverse fields over the next 10 to 15 years. The protocol envisages co-operation in several new spheres including joint research in the field of nuclear science for peaceful uses.

**December 1** Nikhil Chakravarty, editor Mainstream, resigned as member of the press commission.

— The editor of a Hindi monthly magazine and a local politician Dr. Vishwanath Sharma, was stabbed to death by three persons at his house.

— Eleven persons of a family were killed on the spot and 10 injured when the truck in which they were travelling turned turtle and plunged in a ditch near Kerala village on the Mahja Hinbaun road in Sawai Madhopur district.

— India offered to Laos 1,000 tonnes of rice to tide over its difficulty owing to the severe floods that hit the central and the southern parts of that country recently.

3 India's Shashi Menon along with Sherivod Stewart (USA) won the doubles in the Sixth Colgate India Grand Prix Tennis championship.

4 The Janata Government has decided to celebrate 1979 as "Official Languages Year".

5 A draft Bill for setting up Special Court to try cases relating to emergency was approved by the Union Cabinet.

— Janata Party won the prestigious Fatehpur Lok Sabha by-election by a margin of 30,158 votes over its nearest Congress(I) rival, Liaquat Hussain. The Janata candidate, polled 1,30,595 votes as against Congress (I) candidate, Prem Dutt Tewari's 1,00,437.

— Kantilal Ghia, president of the Gujarat Congress Committee died. He was 67. Mr. Ghai was deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat in the Congress government headed by Chimanbhai Patel during 1973-74.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai inaugurated the 18th World Management Congress in New Delhi. The Congress was attended by about 1,500 management experts and delegates.

6 Border Security Force (BSF) Jullundur retained the Nehru Hockey trophy, beating Punjab Police, also from Jullundur by a solitary goal in the final of Jawaharlal Nehru hockey tournament at Shivaji stadium in New Delhi.

— The Congress (I) Parliamentary Party elected Mrs. Indira

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Gandhi as its chairman.

**December 6** The first cricket test match between India and West Indies, held in Bombay, ended in a draw.

— A freedom fighter and former Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Gopal Abaji alias Tayasaheb Deshpande died of injuries sustained in an accident. A bachelor the late Mr. Deshpande was imprisoned for eight years during the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and Quit India Struggle in 1942, besides on two other occasions.

— India sailed smoothly into the Davis Cup East Zone semi-final gaining a 3-0 winning lead against Indonesia. The match was played in Ahmedabad.

— M.C. Chagla, eminent jurist has been honoured with the 1978 award of the National Federation of UNESCO Association in India for his distinguished contributions to the Unesco objectives, particularly in the field of human rights, education and international cooperation.

— Zambian Prime Minister Daniel Lisulo, arrived in New Delhi as head of a high-power delegation to exchange views on bilateral political and economic matters with Morarji Desai.

**7** The Lok Sabha passed the 45th constitution Amendment Bill, as amended by the Rajya Sabha by 357 votes to one.

— Saradindu Sanyal, a veteran sports journalist and broadcaster, died. He was 59.

**8** India and Zambia signed their trade agreement under which India has offered railway wagons, tractors and other vehicles and will buy large quantities of metals from Zambia.

— S.S. Barnala, Minister of Agriculture, left for Dacca to take part in the two-day meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission.

**9** An agreement between Indian Airlines Deputy Managing Director, G.D. Mathur and Maraging Director of Zambian airways was signed. According to the agreement Indian Airlines will train 25 pilots and 18 engineers from Zambia in the next nine months.

**10** Prime Minister Morarji Desai inaugurated the Tenth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological science in New Delhi.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai released a commemoration stamp in honour of Mohammad Ali Jauhar, a great freedom fighter, on his birth centenary.

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**December 10** Rajaji's statue was unveiled by Acharya Kripalani in New Delhi on the occasion of his birth centenary.

**12** B.C. Saxena, sports editor of the Hindustan Times, died. He was 54.

— Dr. R.S. Misra was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Kanpur University for a period of six months. He took over the charge on 18th December.

— Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuon Yew arrived in New Delhi on a six-day State visit, bringing with him proposals for strengthening India's trade links with ASEAN countries.

**13** Abid Hussein Khan, famous musician, died in Indore. He was 62. Known for dhrupad, he was working as a music supervisor in All India Radio.

— Dr. S. Abid Husain, freedom fighter and well known Urdu writer, died. He was 84. An associate of Mahatma Gandhi, he was author of more than 40 books, which included translations into Urdu of all the important works of Gandhiji.

— Prime Minister Morarji Desai informed the Lok Sabha that that the United States has allocated £ 2 million to support project approved by the Indo-US sub-commission that have the potential of improving the life of rural population.

— A protocol on economic and social co-operation was signed at Tripoli at the first session of the joint Indo-Libyan Economic and Social Co-operation Commission

**14** The Dogri poet, Jagan Nath Kalra, known as Charlie, died. He was 86.

— India and Bulgaria concluded in Sofia an agreement on the the liquidation of rupee balances and rupee payment obligations consequent on the termination of the present trade and payment agreements on 31st December 1978. With effect from Ist January, 1979, all trade payments transactions between the two countries will be concluded or settled in any freely convertible currency mutually agreed upon.

— K.R. Narayanan, former Ambassador to China, was appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

— Surya Narayan Singh, MP from the Sidhi constituency in Madhya Pradesh, died.

**15** The Congress-I president of Chitrakoot ward, Ganesh Prasad Pathak was shot dead.

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**December 16** Mangla Prasad, a former U.P. Minister, died in Allahabad.

— Ram Chandra Gupta, member of the Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1962, died in Agra. Mr. Gupta who began his career as a school teacher in 1914 started practising as an advocate two years later. He was member of the UP Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1950 when he became a member of the constituent assembly.

— Swami Kailashananda, Vice-President of the Ramakrishna Math and mission, died. He was 86.

**17** An Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crashlanded near the airport in Hyderabad soon after take off killing three boys on the ground and injuring 17 passengers. The passengers on board included the Andhra Chief Minister Chenna Reddy. On 20th December, Dr. D.V.S K. Rao (Boeing mishap victim) Chief of the UNICEF food and village technology division in South East Asia, succumbed to burns sustained in the crash.

— Nine people were killed and few injured in a road accident near Kalpetta in Wijnad area of Calicut district

— Top seeded Ramesh Krisnan retained his men's singles crown with an effortless 6-1, 6-0, win against his cousin Shankar Krishnan in the National lawns tennis championship played in New Delhi. Amrita Ahluwalia (Tamil Nadu) brushed aside Ana Peshawaria (Delhi) 6-4, 6-0 in the woman's singles. Nirupama Mankad and Kiran Bedi were the women's double winner. Vasudevan was the junior (boys) singles champion. Nandan Bal and Aidyut Goswami were the men's double winner.

**18** India's Vijay Kumar Malhotra has been elected President of the Asian Archery Federation for a term of two years.

— Janata Party retained the Roopbas Assembly (Reserved) seat by an impressive margin of 15,463 votes over its nearest Congress (I) rival. Janata candidate Datta Ram secured 22,499 votes as against 7,036 by Balwant Ram of the Congress (I).

— The Minister for shipping and transport, Chand Ram laid the foundation stone of a bridge over Hindon river, about 6 km from Ghaziabad. The 210 metre long bridge will cost about Rs 15 crore and is likely to be completed by June 1981.

— The Vimadalal Commission report absolving the former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, J. Vengal Rao and some of his ministerial colleagues of any misuse of power in regard to 18 allegations covered in its second and final report, was presented to the parliament. The report held that none of these allegations has been established. The Central Government has accepted the findings of the commission.

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**December 19** Bangladesh Foreign Minister Muhammed Shamsul Huq, arrived in New Delhi on a two-day visit.

— Dr. S. Narashimhan who worked for the welfare of tribals for nearly three decades at Kotagiri in the Nilgiris died. He was 61. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan for his service to the tribals. He was also a recipient of Dr. B. C. Roy award in 1974.

— Parliamentary history was created by the Lok Sabha when the House expelled Mrs. Indira Gandhi, ex-Prime Minister from its membership and sentenced her to jail for committing a grave contempt of Parliament while she was Prime Minister in 1975. Also committed to jail till the prorogation of the session were former additional private secretary, R. K. Dhawan and the former director of the CBI, D. Sen. The House accepted the Privilege Committee's finding that Mrs, Gandhi had committed a breach of privilege by preventing Parliament from knowing that her son's Maruti Limited was surreptitiously installing imported machinery in violation of the licence to manufacture an indigenous small car. The voting on Prime Minister Desai's motion suggesting the punishment was a massive 279 votes against 138 with 37 abstentions. Mrs. Indira Gandhi was then lodged in ward No. 17 of the Tihar jail on the same night. D. Sen and R. K. Dhawan were arrested on 20th December and sent to the jail. Mrs. Gandhi was released from jail on 26th December.

**20** Lok Sabha passed the Bonus Bill.

— Mollar Singh, an old freedom fighter of Delhi, died. He was 82. Known as "Village Gandhi" in Delhi, Mollar Singh was imprisoned three times during the freedom struggle.

— Mrs. Shanti Devi Mitra, a member of the Constituent Assembly died. She was 78. Mrs. Mitra was active in the 1921 non-cooperation movement and was among the first three women to be arrested in the freedom struggle for picketing shops in Calcutta. After marrying N. N. Mitra, her political activities shifted to U.P. She was a leader of U.P. Congress and in 1936 was elected to the Legislative council from Rae Bareli (rural) constituency .

— N. D. Gulati, 78, well known irrigagtion engineer, died. Mr. Gulati had led the Indian delegation in the protracted negotiations with Pakistan and the World Bank that resulted in the Indus Water Treaty in 1960. He was the founding father and hononary president of International Irrigation and drainage He was also chairman of the Godavari Commission which submitted its report in 1962. Later he worked as a consultant of the World Bank and the U.N. He is author of severa books. Mr. Gulati received Padma Vibhushan in 1961.

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**December 20** The Reserve Bank announced devaluation of the rupee in relation to pound sterlings by 2.12%. The bank announced that the spot buying and selling rates have been so fixed as to give rates a middle rate of Rs 16.50 per pound as compared to the earlier middle rate of Rs 16.15.

**21** Mohanlal Bakhliwal, veteran congress leader and former Parliamentarian, died. He was 80. Mr. Bakhliwal was in the forefront during the freedom struggle and courted arrest several times.

**22** A $ 30 million loan to India by the World Bank was announced. The bank will help the country's effort to strengthen multipurpose village co-operatives.

— Bansi Lal Puri, the former Delhi hockey captain and goalkeeper who represented the national team in 1940, died.

— Dr. Durgo Deulkar, social worker, a trustee of the All-India Women's Conference and former director of the Lady Irwin College, died.

— The Lok Sabha passed the Appropriation Bill in respect of Supplementary demands for grants amounting to Rs 11,860 crore in respect of the general budget for 1978-79.

**23** India and the German Democratic Republic signed a protocol envisaging expansion of bilateral scientific, economic and technical cooperation.

— A mammoth farmers' rally was held on India Gate lawns in New Delhi. The rally was addressed by the former Home Minister, Charan Singh. He announced that the leaders of the earstwhile Bharatiya Lok Dal and other like-minded group would decide in the third or fourth week of next month their attitude towards the Janata Party into which they emerged. The rally organised by the All India Kisan Sammelan adopted two resolutions which contained a 20 points charter of the farmers demands and hailed'' the inspiring vision of a new social order given by Chaudhary Charan Singh. Chief Ministers of some states and a few Janata leaders also addressed the rally. The speakers included Madhu Limaye, Mani Ram Bagri, S. N. Mishra, R. K. Amin, Kapoori Thakur, Devi Lal, Prakash Singh Badal, Jagdev Singh Talwandi and Iqbal Hussain.

**24** Durga Prasad Dixit, veteran freedom fighter and congress leader, died. He was 75. Arrested during the 1942 Quit India Movement, Mr. Dixit was jailed for three years. He was general secretary of the Balaghat District Congress Committee from 1956 to 1964.

— Govardhandas Khandelwal, former Minister in the SVD Government in Madhya Pradesh, died. He was 45.

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December 24 The Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers, H. N. Bahuguna left for Baghdad heading the Indian delegation to the fifth session of the Indo-Iraq joint commission scheduled to meet there from 25 to 27th December.

— Nawab Nasiruddin Ahmed Khusro Mirza, the last custodian of the Mughal culture, died. He was 93.

25 A man was killed and seven people were injured, four of them seriously, when the Madras-bound Shencottah passenger train ran into a bus at an unmanned crossing between Rajapalayam district.

— Rajaram Vinayak Oturkar, a noted historian, died. He was 81. Mr. Oturkar wrote many text-books on his subject and also headed the Bombay college of Journalism for sometime.

26 Dr. Vijay Shukla, a well known Hindi critic and writer, died. He was 45.

— Fifteen persons were killed and over 30 others injured critically when a Trivandrum-bound Island Express from Bangalore hit a bus at an unmanned gate near Trichur.

— Veteran freedom fighter Banamali Sen died. He was 86. Mr. Sen, renowned physician, was twice jailed for participation in the non-cooperation movement and was externed from Rajasahi (now in Bangladesh) for six months.

— Vidwan V.S. Ramchandra Shastry, well-known Sanskrit scholar and former Principal of Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya of the Banaras Hindu University, died. He was 77. He was a recipient of several awards, including an award of certificate of honour by the President in 1973 and Mahamahopadhyay by the Akhil Bhartiya Pandit Parishad.

27 Baddam Yella Reddy, communist leader of Telengana, died. He was 74. A former president of the Andhra Mahasabha, Mr. Reddy was in the forefront of the sruggle against the feudal regime of the Nizam. He was a member of the State Assembly for three terms and of Parliament for one term.

— Forty-one working boys and girls were drowned when their bus fell into a river near Sivakasi in Ramanathapuram district.

— India and Iraq signed a document for closer technical, commercical, Industrial and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

— V. V. Ramaswamy Nadar, a former member of the Rajya Sabha, died. He was 83.

28 A committee of Indian and Maldivian officials has been set up

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to work out details of economic and technical cooperation between India and Maldives in different fields.

**December 28** 5.5 lakh employees went on a two-day strike to press their demands for more dearness allowance and better service conditions. As a result of this all banking operation in the country came to a standstill.

— A two-member delegation led by Dr. Ram Kripal Sinha, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Labour left for Havana to attend the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution falling on 1st January.

— Nine people were killed and 12 injured when a goods train was derailed between Singareni collieries and Kharepalli on Darnakal-Bhadrachelam road section of the South Railway.

**29** Dr. Shravan Tandon, IPC, was appoited Director-General of the Border Security Force to succeed Ashwini Kumar who will retire on 1st January 1979.

— Indian Oil Corporation and the Soviet Export Organisation, SNE signed an agreement under which India will import 15 lakh tonnes of crude from the Soviet Union during 1979.

— Laldenga, founder of Mizo National Front (MNF) has been expelled from the party, according to a white paper issued by the Fronts publicity department.

**30** A contract for supply of 34 passenger coaches to Sri Lanka was signed in Colombo between the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India (PEC) and the Ceylon Government Railway (CGR).

— Mrs. Soonu Kochar, High Commissioner for India to Fiji, has been concurrently accredited as High Commissioner for India to Republic of Nauru with residence in Suva.

— The President promulgated an Ordinance extending the moratarium on industrial undertakings taken over by the Government from five years to eight years. The Ordinance, amending certain provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, provides relief to the undertakings from such obligations as agreements, settlements, and awards in force immediately before the takeover.

**31** Haryana Chief Minister, Devi Lal, expanded his cabinet by adding one more Minister to it, raising the total number of Ministers including a Chief Parliamentary Secretary, to 16 against the original strength of 10 fixed by the Central leadership.

— P. Basavana Govda, Congress-I member of the Karnataka State Assembly, died. He was 48.

— Six miners were killed and eight injured when the roof of an incline in Prakasam Khai at Maruguru coalmines in Khammam district caved in.

— Sudhir Phadke won the men's Single Crown of the first All-India Price Money Table Tennis Tournament, defeating the National Champion Manjit Dua by 22-20, 19-21, 21-11, 10-21, 21-17.

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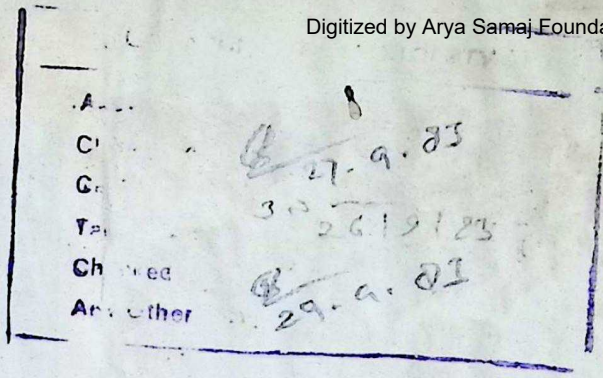

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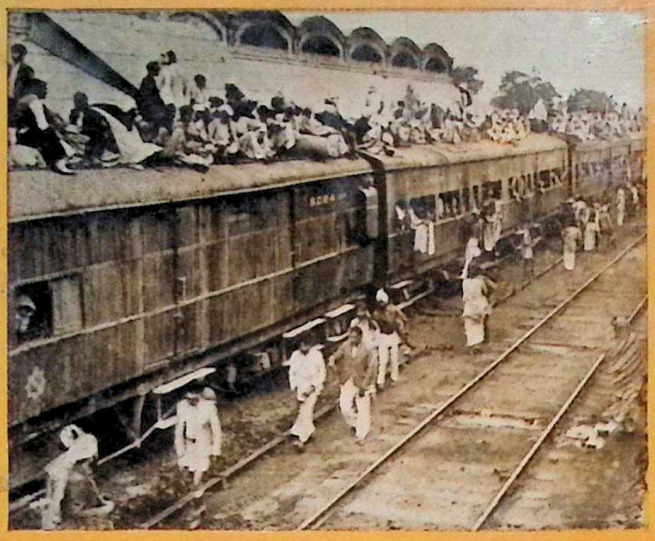

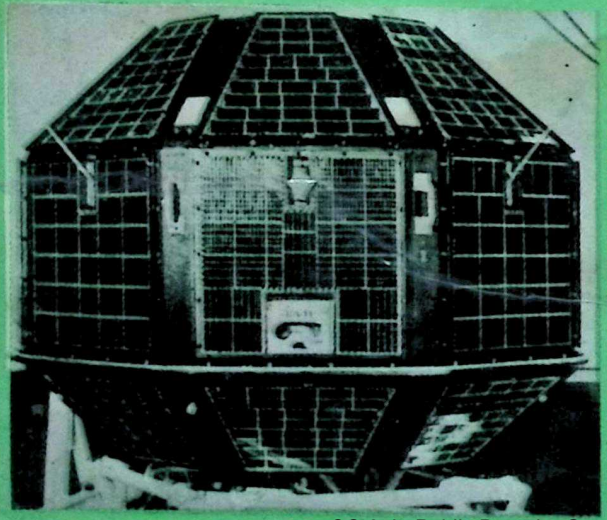

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